Daily Report

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Hungarian Minister Assesses Free Trade Zone Idea

LD2803040391 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 2200 GMT 27 Mar 91

[Text] Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and Poland plan to form a joint free-trade zone, the Hungarian minister of finance has said. Mihaly Kupa met journalists after concluding three days of talks in The Hague. He said that the joint free-trade zone cannot by any means be created next year. The three countries concerned must first come to an agreement on the basic principles. The Hungarian finance minister, reporting on his visit to the European Community, said that the loan to be provided by the 24 for Hungary amounting to $500 million may soon be realized. One factor in this situation is the fact that a basic element of Hungarian economic policy is the prompt repayment of debts.

Mihaly Kupa said that Western investors assess the country's economic situation favorably, but considerable efforts will still be necessary to achieve last year's level of foreign investments. The Hungarian finance minister will travel to Moscow tomorrow to discuss bilateral trade.

Woerner Comments on NATO After the Warsaw Pact

LD3103094591 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0630 GMT 31 Mar 91

[Interview with NATO Secretary General Manfred Woerner by Gyorgy Bernath; place and date not given—recorded. Woerner speaks in German with superimposed Hungarian translation]

[Text] Today is 31 March, the last day on the calendar for the Warsaw Pact military organization. It is a completely new situation that beginning tomorrow NATO will be the only military organization in Europe. Gyorgy Bernath has asked Manfred Woerner, NATO secretary general, whether this situation would leave a vacuum and whether it would lead perhaps to problems of balance.

[Woerner] No, I do not think so. I would not say a vacuum. An organization is going to break up that has been made obsolete by the events of Central and Eastern Europe—the Soviet Union relinquished its former satellite zone followed by the democratic revolutions of these countries, and now the Soviet troops are being withdrawn. I consider this a development that is very much in the interest of Europe's security.

Such a new, all-European security structure must take its place. We want to build it from many components and in such a way that all the states of Europe can find their role from the point of view of security policy. This, therefore, would be a Europe that is built on the mutual respect of security interests, which includes the Soviet Union too.

[Bernath] Yes, but this comprehensive security system has not yet evolved. How does NATO wish to react now to the changed situation? A traditional foe of NATO is disappearing, if it has not disappeared yet, therefore it seems logical that NATO must reassess its own role.

[Woerner] First of all, we have no need for an enemy. We do not need a foe. We have always been only a defense alliance that wishes to guarantee security, peace, and freedom. This is not going to change. [these] remain a risk even after the cessation of a direct threat, and therefore our alliance will continue to exist.

Naturally we have to draw the conclusions from the situation and what is more we must do it in respect of two directions. One of these is that, as far as we can, we build a new security structure, institutionalize the European security and cooperation system; i.e. we will construct this all-European structure. The other is that we develop our relations with all the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, and I must add here that, from the point of view of security policy, we will conclude disarmament agreements of a binding nature that will reduce the probability of a threat, make the balance of Europe more secure, and make the armed forces more controllable. [end recording]

Several Reportedly Killed in Shkoder Demonstration

AU0204093491 Paris AFP in English 0930 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tirana, April 2 (AFP)—Several people were killed on Monday during anti-communist demonstrations in the western town of Shkoder, including opposition Democratic Party representative Arben Broci, a party spokesman said Tuesday. Spokesman Genc Pollo said figures for the number of dead varied from two to five.

About 1,000 people were protesting outside Labour Party (ex-Communist) headquarters against alleged rigging of Sunday's elections, in which the former Communists won a big majority, the spokesman said.

Mr. Broci was killed inside the party headquarters "after having arrived to try to calm down and disperse the crowd," Mr. Pollo said.

Tanks Reported in Shkoder After Fatalities

AU0204114991 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Armin Wolf report from Tirana]

[Text] [Announcer] What is currently going on in Shkoder?

[Wolf] All that is known here is that the Democratic Party [PDSh] in Shkoder sent a telegram to its headquarters in Tirana. According to it, at least three people were killed yesterday, one of them Arban Broci, one of the most important leaders of the PDSh in the north. As was reported yesterday, this happened during a demonstration.

Meanwhile, the communist party [Albanian Workers Party—PPSh] has confirmed that a least two people were killed. A few minutes ago, the first secretary of the Tirana communist party committee gave a news conference, during which he received and passed on the information that two persons were killed and 12 injured. As I have already said, however, the PDSh has stated that three people have been killed. According to the telegram, tanks were brought into position in Shkoder. The situation is very serious. Several journalists are currently trying to get to Shkoder, which is approximately a two-hour drive from Tirana; however, the city is probably blocked off and they will not get in.

[Announcer] Mr. Wolf, how do the people in Tirana assess the possibilty of imminent intervention by the Army?

[Wolf] Presently, nothing can be seen in Tirana. There are no more soldiers in the streets than usual. It was surprising that the Interior Ministry units were suddenly in the streets yesterday. There were several thousand people were in front of the PDSh headquarters in Tirana, but there were no clashes; that is to say, there are no indications here that anything is going on in Tirana. Apparently, the Army has already intervened in Shkoder; however, at the moment this is not clear. The tanks might belong to the Interior Ministry.

[Announcer] Armin Wolf, thank you very much for this direct report from Tirana. Call us when you have more to report from Albania.

Interior Ministry Confirms 3 Dead

AU0204135791 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1330 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Statement issued by the Interior Ministry; place and date not given]

[Text] At 0900 this morning, large crowds of people gathered in front of the Albanian Workers Party Committee and Executive Committee buildings in the city of Shkoder, shouting destabilizing slogans and saying that they would seize power by force, etc. Thousands of people entered the Party Committee building and set fire to the offices, endangering people's lives. The windows of the Executive Committee and the State Library were broken, and inflammable materials were also used. Guns were fired, and explosives were thrown. Under these circumstances, the police were forced to open fire. Three people were killed and 12 policemen and 11 civilians were injured. The situation is serious.

PDSh Official Beaten; Bomb Found

AU0204122091 Vienna Domestic Service in German 1000 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Armin Wolf report from Tirana]

[Excerpts] Two days after the first free elections, the political situation in Albania is suddenly exceedingly tense again. According to the Democratic Party [PDSh], at least one person was shot in Shkoder in the north of Albania. [passage omitted]

The leadership of the PDSh is currently holding a crisis session to discuss its further course of action. Party Chairman Sali Berisha protested to the Interior Minstry in the morning and called for a thorough examination of the events.

Half an hour ago, in an ORF interview, PDSh Spokesman Genc Pollo talked of serious political consequences, but he was not yet able to give any details. The PDSh wants to give a news conference in the afternoon.

Moreover, Pollo reported on incidents in other cities. Accordingly, in (?Vatsha) the local chairman of the PDSh was beaten up by special units of the Interior Ministry. A bomb, which fortunately did not explode, was found in the party's headquarters in Elbasan. [passage omitted]

PDSh Spokesman Cited on Events

AU0204143491 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Dragan Petrovic report from Tirana]

[Text] There has been tumultuous reaction to the election results and victory of the Communists in Albania. At least three people have died in Shkoder and several dozen have been wounded. Security measures are also being stepped up in the capital city of Albania. Dragan Petrovic, our special correspondent, has a report from Tirana:

[Petrovic] At least three people died in this morning's anticommunist demonstrations in Shkoder while several dozen were wounded. This was announced today in Tirana by the press spokesman of the opposition Democratic Party [PDSh]. He also stated that some reports say that more people have been wounded but he could not confirm this.

According to him, the inhabitants of Shkoder, dissatisfied with the results of the elections, tried to organize large demonstrations. According to still unconfirmed reports, the building of the district committee of the Albanian Workers Party [PPSh] in Shkoder has been set on fire. There has been talk among journalists that tanks have appeared on the streets of Shkoder.

The leaders of the strongest opposition party are calling on their followers to maintain peace and reason.

A demonstration was also held last night in Tirana where 2,000- 3,000 people gathered outside the headquarters of the PDSh and not far from the diplomatic district. The police dispersed those who had gathered by firing into the air.

Events in Shkoder have to all intents and purposes been confirmed by officials of the PPSh. The first secretary of the ruling party in Tirana briefed journalists at a news conference on what was happening in Shkoder, significantly playing down the dimensions of the protest. He announced, however, that the authorities will use all the means of a law-governed state to preserve, as he put it, freedom and democracy. He also informed journalists that security measures were also being stepped up in Tirana so that the demonstrations do not spread.

In total, the situation in Albania is very tense and there is the fear that the unrest will spread to other towns in the interior. There is still no information whatsoever on last night's plenum of the Central Committee of the PPSh.

Election Results Continue To Be Reported

Workers Party Wins 66 Percent of Seats

AU0104134891 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1330 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Because of people's great interest in the results of the 31 March elections and the many telephone calls to the radio and television, particularly our news editorial board, we obtained the following data from the Central Electoral Commission:

According to provisional data obtained solely by telephone from the districts, but which have not been conclusively verified on the basis of official documentation—we stress once again that these are provisional data—the results in the first pluralist elections in our country on 31 March are as follows:

A first round of voting took place in 249 constituencies. About six percent of these constituencies will proceed to a second round, including one constituency in Pogradec District where the election will be held for the first time, as we have reported.

On the basis of provisional data, the Albanian Workers Party has won about 66 percent of the seats. The Democratic Party has won about 27 percent of the seats. Omonia has won three seats in the new People's Assembly. Meanwhile, electoral reports are continuing to arrive at the Central Electoral Commission from the constituency commissions, in order to produce the final official results of the first electoral round.

Results in 14 Districts Reported

AU0104195791 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1914 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Statement by Electoral Commission Chairman Rexhep Mejdani; place not given—recorded on 1 April]

[Text] The information I can provide now is from the computer, but it is not final or conclusive because it relates only to 14 districts of our country. I will nevertheless give a short overview in some of these districts.

Specifically, Elbasan has 19 constituencies, and first round elections were completed in all of them. The Albanian Workers Party [PPSh] won in 13 constituencies, and the Democratic Party [PDSh] in six.

Durres also has 19 constituencies. First round elections were completed in 17 of these. The PDSh won in 11, and the PPSh in six. There are also two constituencies that will continue to a second round in one week's time, and the two rival candidates in each belong to the PPSh and the PDSh.

In Gramsh, The PPSh won the first round in all three constituencies.

Gjirokaster has six constituencies. First round elections were completed in five of them. The PPSh won in three constituencies, and the Omonia Organization in two, while a PPSh candidate faces a PDSh candidate in the second round of elections in one constituency.

First round elections were completed in all of Korce's 17 constituencies. The PDSh won in five constituencies, and the PPSh in 12.

Kukes has eight constituencies. According to the data given to me by my comrade at the computer, the PPSh won in an all eight constituencies.

Lezhe has five constituencies, and first round elections ended in three of them. Two of the successful candidates were from the PPSh, and one was from the PDSh. A second round of elections will be held in the other constituencies of the district and a PPSh candidate faces a PDSh candidate in each of them.

Librazhd has five constituencies and PPSh candidates won the first round in all of them.

Lushnje has 11 constituencies and PPSh candidates won in eight. In two others, a second round will involve PPSh and PDSh candidates; after two weeks a new round of elections will take place in one constituency, because only one candidate succeeded in gaining the minimum number of 25 percent of the votes.

In Permet, PPSh candidates won in all three constituencies.

Let me say in passing that in some cases PPSh candidates are joint candidates with other social organizations such as the Trade Unions and the Democratic Front.

As for Pogradec, as you know, there are five constituencies, and in one of them no election was held yesterday because two candidates withdrew, leaving only one candidate, and according to the Electoral Law no election can be held with only one candidate. As a result, elections were held in four constituencies, and PPSh candidates won in them all.

Puke has four constituencies and according to our present information the PPSh won in all of them.

Sarande has seven constituencies and we have data from six of them. The PPSh has won in four constituencies, while a second round will be necessary in two others. The candidates who will compete are from the PPSh and the Omonia Organization.

In Tepelene, the PPSh won in all four constituencies.

We are in the meantime waiting for data from other districts and we will announce the results to the public as soon as we can.

Official Views Election Results

AU0104145091 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 1330 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Report on news conference by Xhelil Gjoni, secretary of the Albanian Workers Party Central Committee, with unidentified foreign and domestic reporters at the Palace of Congresses in Tirana on 1 April]

[Text] Xhelil Gjoni informed those present that the Albanian Workers Party [PPSh] won a majority in yesterday's elections for deputies to the People's Assembly and that about 40 percent of electors voted for the PPSh's candidates in those constituencies where its candidates did not win. These results, he said later, show once again that the people have full confidence in the PPSh and see their future under its leadership. This is an important and historic victory. Comrade Xhelil Gjoni then stressed that the PPSh will continue in its efforts to renew all its activities until the next congress and beyond.

He then expressed the desire to cooperate with the opposition, stressing that the PPSh is ready for such cooperation. We will use pluralism to the benefit of the people to improve the general economic situation and to realize the people's essential interests.

Asked by a journalist about the result in the constituency where President Ramiz Alia was a candidate, he replied: As far as we know, the president did not win the necessary number of votes in Constituency No. 218, and this was because of weaknesses in the PPSh's work. He was asked what these weaknesses are. Alienation from the masses, he replied, adding that the new and reformed program will yield results in the future.

Another journalist asked what are the guarantees of renewing the party and strengthening ties with the masses. Communists, Comrade Xhelil Gjoni said, are not [word indistinct]. They live among the people and with the people's worries and problems and will always work enthusiastically to make their lives better. It must be stressed, however, that the main credit for everything that we have achieved so far in the development of democratic processes belongs to Comrade Ramiz Alia, who is and will be at the head of our party.

Many journalists wished to know the paths that the PPSh has chosen to overcome the difficult economic situation in Albania today. Xhelil Gjoni said that they have been announced in the PPSh's electoral program. he main features are people's employment, improved prosperity, and the investments that foreign firms have made and will continue to make in Albania.

Several journalists asked how the problem of depoliticizing the Army will be solved. Like many other problems, the problem of depoliticizing the Army will be decided by the new People's Assembly.

Asked what place Marxism-Leninism will assume in the PPSh's future program, Xhelil Gjoni said that we will take from this theory those ideas that are beneficial for the PPSh's work. The PPSh, he said, has carried out and will continue to carry out reforms. We have striven and always will strive to put our work at the service of the good of the people. Of course, we have also made mistakes, but we always have been and will be at pains to correct them.

In conclusion, Comrade Xhelil Gjoni said that we hope that the PPSh will have the necessary majority in the new People's Assembly. This is a guarantee of continuing the processes of democratization, which, as Comrade Ramiz Alia has said, are irreversible.

PDSh Refuses Coalition With PPSh

AU0104202591 Tirana Domestic Service in Albanian 2000 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The Democratic Party [PDSh] held a news conference today. At its start, Party Chairman Sali Berisha told journalists that the electoral campaign took place in a difficult and tense situation. Asked by journalists how he viewed the results, he said that they represent a victory for democratic forces, bearing in mind the short time that has passed since the creation of the party. Sali Berisha also said that the PDSh will not agree to join a coalition government with the Albanian Workers Party [PPSh]. However, we will respect the election results.

Later, asked about the reform of the PPSh, he said that the PPSh has announced a reformist program, but the methods it will use are outmoded. Asked about the new president, he said that he thought he would be elected by the new legislature.

Foreign Election Observers Depart

AU0204091491 Tirana ATA in English 0821 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Tirana, April 2 (ATA)—The delegation of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe, the Austrian parliamentary delegation, the Danish parliamentary delegation, the French parliamentary delegation, the German delegation, the delegation of the group of the US Senator Claiborne Pell, the Czechoslovak delegation, the Swiss delegation, the Norwegian delegation, the Swedish delegation, the British parliamentary delegation, the Turkish and Spanish delegations and the delegations invited by the political parties, who attended the March 31 elections conducted in Albania, left our country on April 1.

At the airport they were seen off by high-ranking officials of the Presidium of the People's Assembly, of the government, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, central institutions, of the political parties and other subjects.

Favorable Impressions Noted

AU0204113191 Tirana ATA in English 1010 GMT 2 Apr 91

["Impressions of Foreign Observers on the Elections in Albania—The Elections Were Free and democratic"—ATA headline]

[Text] Tirana, April 2 (ATA)—Marcelle Lentz-Cornette, head of the delegation of the parliamentary assembly of the European Council and vice-chairwoman of the Council of Europe, says among other things in an interview to the newspaper "ZERI I POPULLIT":

We monitored the election process all over Albania, as in Tirana, in the north, south, east etc. From what we observed, we saw that the elections were regular. My opinion and of my parliamentary colleagues is that in general the elections were free and democratic. I must say that the elections' results should be accepted by all the political parties.

I think that Albania might immediately win the status of the observer in the European Council. Regarding the economic aids, they should be offered to Albania as soon as possible from various ways and countries.

The Beginning of Albania's Road Towards Europe

While Zenelay Roman, head of the parliamentary delegation of the Federal Assembly of the Czech and Slovakian FR [Federal Republic], deputy minister at the International Relations Ministry of the Czech Republic, says among other things in his interview with "ZERI I POPULLIT":

We are satisfied over our participation as observers in the first pluralist elections in Albania. The Albanians, as well as the Czechs and Slovaks, are tiny peoples that should march towards Europe not through force and violence but through peace.

I think that the pluralist elections in your country were conducted in a normal way. With the pluralist elections the Albanians have showed themselves civilized. I come to the conclusion that the events here have taken place very speedily. Most important for me is that the first pluralist elections mark the beginning of the road Albania should follow to entirely integrate with Europe and join the comprehensive european processes.

I Exclude the Possibility of a National Manipulation of the Elections

Marco Panella, observer, deputy to the European Parliament and secretary general of the Italian Radical Party, says among other things in the newspaper "PUNA":

I have been in some constituences in Tirana, Durres and Kavaje. My first thought is that these elections have been fully democratic regarding their technical application.

I do not come with the capacity of the one that wants to teach somebody or to judge, but with the conviction of the one who knows that, just as it also happens in our country, there exists the danger of national manipulations that might be great and on a large scale. On what I have noticed, I absolutely exclude such a situation.

Finance Minister on Progress of Economic Reform

AU3003202291 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 27 Mar 91 p 1

[Dimitrana Aleksandrova report]

[Text] During May we must complete the stabilization of the monetary system, even if we have to take drastic measures, said Finance Minister Ivan Kostov at a news conference held on 26 March. This will conclude the first stage of the economic reform, and we can then start on the second stage, namely reviving the economy.

Kostov believes that at present Bulgaria has not recovered financially, and the market is not in equilibrium, despite the moderate price and interest rate shocks.

Some 50 days after the freeing of prices, the deficiencies in the supply of goods to the market are gradually being corrected, but some basic goods, such as gasoline and sugar for example, continue to be in short supply. After the initial leap in prices, certain products are coming down in price, but market prices are still high in relation to incomes. This hampers the creation of a true labor market and seriously worries the government, Kostov admitted.

People still expect a devaluation of the lev, and this is blocking the stimulation of the dollar market. The banks are making the financial situation of the companies more difficult by offering foreign currency at high prices. We will invite foreign banks to our market and will eliminate the monopoly held by our banks, Kostov said.

In Kostov's view, the decline in the economy is possibly the highest price we have had to pay for the quick launching of the reform. Advance estimates allowed for a 10-percent fall in production compared with December 1990, but this proved to be 12 percent too low. We already have over 124,000 unemployed, and many people have been laid off work. During the coming two months, the decline in the economy should be 15 percent at the most, while 17 percent is the critical limit that the economy can stand.

Within one and a half to two months the government, trade unions, and employers have to prepare the program for the second stage of the reform, with the aim of ending the stagnation and putting life into the economy.

Kostov declared that there will be no hyperinflation, provided that the political situation in the country holds.

Kostov declined to comment on the question of the date of the legislative elections. His watchword is: "Reform and only reform!"

Economic leaders who are unwilling or unable to work for the reform will be relieved from their posts. Responding to a question on how this would be achieved, Kostov said that three of the members of the government team responsible for the reform have experience in political struggles.

"Our greatest success in the course of the reform so far," said Kostov, "is the breakthrough in the field of foreign economic relations, that is, the high reputation that we have won in international financial circles."

He announced that there are good prospects for rescheduling Bulgaria's foreign debt. It is possible that in September we will sign an agreement with the creditor banks for a two-year moratorium on debt repayments in return for guarantees provided by our government.

SDS Insists on Elections by Mid-June

AU0104181391 Sofia BTA in English 1624 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 1 (BTA)—"The SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] Coordinating Council discussed today the declaration adopted last Saturday at the meeting of SDS National Consultative Council, it has no objections and expects the parliamentary groups to take a stand," SDS Leader Filip Dimitrov told a press conference today.

The declaration of the SDS National Consultative Council points out that elections for a new Grand National Assembly should be held by mid-June at the latest because the work of the present parliament is greatly impeded by lack of a constructive atmosphere. The SDS National Consultative Council is a body consisting of representatives of the SDS Municipal Coordinating Councils, of the SDS parliamentary groups, and of the SDS National Coordinating Council. Its decisions are of a recommendatory nature. The views of the individual SDS parliamentary groups will probably have the largest impact on the final stand of the SDS on the elections, because parliament is the legitimate body that should decide on its self-dissolution prior to setting the date for the new elections.

Today Mr. Filip Dimitrov set forth arguments in support of the SDS's view that the parliamentary elections should precede the local ones. He stated that it would be unrealistic to believe that the present parliament will succeed in fulfilling its tasks, which include the passage of acts essential to the political and economic reform. Mr. Dimitrov argued against the view that elections in June would slow down the reform. He said that a small delay in the coming months is preferable to a long delay at another time. The SDS leader also believes that there are slim chances for the laws on the local elections to be passed within a reasonable time-span. There is a danger of parliament's work dragging on endlessly and of its finding it impossible to function normally.

It became known today that the leadership of the Nikola Petkov Agrarian Party, one of the influential parties within the SDS, has adopted an ultimatum saying that the draft of the new constitution should be introduced

for debates at a plenary session by April 10. Otherwise the Nikola Petkov BZNS will consider the present parliament incapable of fulfilling its major task.

The SDS parliamentary union will probably declare its stand on the elections on Wednesday. Parliament is expected to debate this problem on Thursday, according to preliminary information.

SDS Rejects BSP's 'Responsibility' Declaration

AU0104181491 Sofia BTA in English 1647 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 1 (BTA)—SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] spokesman Mikhail Nedelchev criticized severely before journalists the declaration of the Supreme Council of the Bulgarian Socialist (ex-Communist) Party [BSP] on the party's responsibility, which was released last week.

"We don't accept 'responsibility' as a substitute for guilt, and 'abuses' as a substitute for crime," Mr. Nedelchev said. The SDS sees the BSP declaration as an attempt to shift the responsibility and to involve BSP members in a new pack of lies. According to the SDS spokesman, the declaration should have made a critical analysis instead of new promises, this time for democratic socialism. "Instead of being a gesture significant for all Bulgarians, this declaration merely bears evidence of an internal problem of the ruling BSP: that it is incapable of a genuine change," Mr. Nedelchev stated.

SDS leader Filip Dimitrov stressed that the SDS will continue to insist on a reasonable solution to the problems of the BSP's guilt and property. In the next two days the SDS will probably demand official information on the juristic aspects of ex-Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov's citizenship, because of recent publications saying that he is a Soviet citizen.

Dimitrov Wants His File Examined

AU3103142491 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 23 Mar 91 p 1

["Open letter from Filip Dimitrov, chairman of the Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces, to the chairman of the Members' Files Commission of the Grand National Assembly"—undated]

[Text] Esteemed Mr. Chairman: The difficulties arising in the work of your commission are evidently arousing the suspicion and distrust of the people, who are starting to see the repulsive shadow of the Communist Party and its secret agencies everywhere. It is of no advantage to any institution to add fuel to the suspicion that it includes elements of the communist security services, in addition to the numerous communist elements that it already contains. Only publicity and openness can guarantee the democratic process and respect for activities that are honored and respected in every state, and only the stains of communist espionage damage the prestige of these activities.

For these reasons, I insist that my own dossier should be included in the files requisitioned by you, and that its contents should be made public, because although I am not a legisltive member, the post that I hold requires that information about me should be accessible to the public.

I consider it appropriate that no political leader should refuse to do this. Such a refusal would imply deliberately arousing suspicions among people that communism has succeeded in besmirching everyone and everything, whereas the truth is that only a handful of people cooperated with its misanthropic services.

It is clear that the communist functionaries, those who inspired and created the practice of informing, and those who helped in the repressions stemming from this practice, already discredit many institutions quite enough by their presence. The attempt to impose the stain of communism on organizations that are fighting against communism is harmful for the democratic process.

I also consider it appropriate for the commission to decide to summon me to appear before it, or, if the commission so desires, to allow the Coordinating Council of the Union of Democratic Forces [SDS] to invite those SDS members who are alleged to have been connected with the secret services to appear before the commission. These people have the right to defend themselves and, if necessary, refute the allegations, which is impossible without familiarizing oneself with the materials, especially in view of the rumors circulating in the halls of government.

I hope that my arguments will be accepted.

Petkov BZNS Rejects Cooperation With BCP

AU0104193991 Sofia BTA in English 1852 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 1 (BTA)—The Executive Council of the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party [BZNS] rejects the idea of a united opposition if it includes the "former totalitarian vassal of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party] which has usurped the name of the Agrarian Party and which even now is taking part in the coalitional government side by side with the BCP," it is said in a declaration of the Executive Council of the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party published here today. If the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) does not take this stand of the Nikolapetkovists into account, they will reconsider their membership in the SDS.

The Standing Committee of the Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party has been authorized to initiate legal proceedings against the "formal BZNS" for depriving it of its name as well as for restoring the property of the BZNS and the people it has seized. What is more, the Nikola Petkov BZNS will ask the Prosecutor General's Office to start an inquiry

into the forceful extortion of declarations and confessions in the prisons and camps during the communist regime. The declaration insists on the investigation of the activities of former BZNS leaders.

The document also insists on the opening of the police files of all MP's.

BZNS Admits 'Responsibility' for Communist Rule

AU0104194091 Sofia BTA in English 1838 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 1 (BTA)—The Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS), the "natural ally" of the Bulgarian Communist Party (now BSP) [Bulgarian Socialist Party] in the Government of Bulgaria till November 10, 1989, admitted its political responsibility for the crisis in this country.

The BZNS Executive Council condemns and categorically distances itself from the political course pursued by the BZNS in the 1947-1989 period which deprived the Agrarian Party both of its individuality and of all possibilities to take an independent part in Bulgaria's sociopolitical life and led to its complete subordination to the Communist Party, it is pointed out in a resolution of the Executive Council made public at a press conference held here today. (In 1947 the then opposition BZNS was banned, just like the other opposition political parties which existed in this country. Some of the agrarian political leaders, however, gave in and entered into conciliation with the ruling Communist Party.)

The resolution of the Executive Council was taken on the basis of information provided by the Commission on Determining Political Guilt and Responsibility, which, as has become clear, has still not completed its work.

The information prepared by the commission cites the names of the BZNS leaders Aleksandur Obov, Georgi Traykov and Petur Tanchev, who betrayed the principles and the fundamental interests of the Agrarian Party. They are accused of having imposed decisions with which the BZNS "unconditionally recognized the leading role of the BCP [Bulgarian Communist Party], gave up its program and embraced the program of the Communist Party for the construction of socialism." It points to Petur Tanchev, who was removed after November 10, 1989, as the most zealous adherent of this course. The information cites the names of some twenty other BZNS functionaries and agrarian ministers.

The Executive Council resolutely rejects all attempts on the part of some political forces to inspire a feeling of guilt in scores of thousands of agrarians—honest citizens and patriots reared in the democratic traditions of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party who have preserved the ideals of Aleksandur Stamboliyski.

In response to a question, the present BZNS leader Mr. Viktor Vulkov said that the list of those responsible will most probably not include names of members of the present leadership of the BZNS even after the commission completes its work.

Elaborating the stand of the BZNS on the forthcoming elections, Mr. Ivan Glushkov, member of the BZNS Standing Committee, stressed that the Agrarian Party will take part in the elections as a totally independent political force on the side of the opposition democratic forces who are against the monopoly of the BSP on power.

Former Agrarian Leaders Accused of Collaboration

AU2903202091 Sofia ZEMEDELSKO ZNAME in Bulgarian 23 Mar 91 p 1

[Announcement by Boris Spirov, chairman of the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union Commission for Establishing Political Guilt and Responsibility of BZNS Officials during the 1947-1989 Period and for Material Damages Caused to the State and the Union, on the commission's meeting; place and date not given]

[Text] At one of its regular meetings, the Bulgarian National Agrarian Union [BZNS], Commission for Establishing the Political Guilt and Responsibility of BZNS Leaders in the 1947-1989 Period and for Material Damages Caused to the State and the BZNS, examined the political responsibility of functionaries who disgraced the BZNS by having adopted the program and leading role of the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] and the construction of socialism.

The BZNS leadership distanced itself and categorically denounced the actions of the following BZNS leaders: Aleksandur Obbov, Georgi Dragnev, Georgi Traykov, Stoyan Tonchev, Mikhail Genovski, Radi Naydenov, Kiril Klisurski, Yanko Markov, Petur Tanchev, Nikolay Goergiev, Petur Kamenov, Pando Vanchev, Aleksi Ivanov, Boyan Georgiev, Lalyu Ganchev, Dimitur Karamukov, Georgi Andreev, and Angel Dimitrov.

The aforementioned BZNS leaders actively supported the BCP and with their actions contributed to the reduction and restriction of BZNS membership. They also actively participated in the implementation of the forced collectivization of agriculture.

The work of the commission will be pursued as will the investigations of those responsible for the aforementioned acts who persistently pursued the policy of obliterating the party's image and of discrediting the BZNS.

Lukanov Denies Allegations of Soviet Citizenship

AU3003144591 Sofia DEMOKRATSITYA in Bulgarian 25 Mar 91 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Andrey Lukanov, deputy chairman of the Bulgarian Socialist Party, BSP, Supreme Council and

chairman of the Grand National Assembly Foreign Policy Commission, by Sonya Stoyanova; place and date not given: "Andrey Lukanov on His Citizenship and Other Issues"]

[Excerpts] [Stoyanova] Is it true that you have renounced your Soviet citizenship?

[Lukanov] It is not true. I was born on Soviet territory in a family of political emigres. Both my parents were Bulgarians. They were even descendants of very old Bulgarian families. I could not give you an exact analysis of the political aspect of my case. I am convinced that I was born a Bulgarian citizen, although I acquired Soviet citizenship during a certain period of my life, prior to my family's return to Bulgaria.

[Stoyanova] Have you ever renounced Soviet citizenship?

[Lukanov] Of course not. I never renounced it because I think that the question was resolved as soon as I stepped on Bulgarian territory. I presume that I have been a Bulgarian citizen since my birth, and that I stopped being a Soviet citizen as soon I left the territory of the USSR. This is an interesting question, as a matter of fact, and forces me to get involved in legal details. I have never renounced Soviet citizenship on the grounds of my assumption that I am a Bulgarian citizen.

[Stoyanova] Mr. Lukanov, what is your moral judgment concerning the privileges of the former upper crust?

[Lukanov] My moral judgment was expressed immediately after 10 November 1989 when, together with Petur Mladenov, we practically eliminated the whole system of privileges, such as Western-made cars, the additional financial resources for buying foodstuffs, and others. As a matter of fact, the action was in contradiction with the very idea that highranking state functionaries are granted expenses for representation that is a normal procedure in every functioning society. The same idea was adopted by the new legislature as a normal practice. The problems stemmed from the secrecy with which the system treated all issues related to privileges of official functionaries and to the lack of control concerning all such privileges. The public should know which privileges the leaders are entitled to, how long they are entitled to them, why they are entitled to them, and to what extent they are authorized to use the privileges. [passage omitted]

[Stoyanova] How do you feel about the insults thrown at you by Todor Zhivkov in his numerous interviews with which he flooded the press. He called you a criminal and the most dangerous man. I am disturbed by the fact that he says all these things without discrimination and without citing facts. What is your reaction to them?

[Lukanov] I would not like respond in kind, especially as he is a defendant, but also because I might be called as a witness in his trial. Therefore, I refrain from any statements for the duration of the trial, at least. Our relations were bad even prior to 10 November 1989. I was one of the people whom Zhivkov disliked and considered his opponent. I repeat, he has no facts available, and he shall never have any. I do not think that my critical attitude toward him and his regime make me a traitor. [passage omitted]

[Stoyanova] You used to be a minister of foreign economic relations. According to an article published in the U.S. publication, Readers' Digest, in 1989, you are supposed to have signed documents authorizing the transfer of drugs and weapons worth $3 billion through the Kinteks Company?

[Lukanov] It is one of the sensational rumors that is not confirmed by facts. To begin with, it was not a task of the foreign economic relations' minister to deal with such matters. The article appeared at a time when, along with justified criticism, numerous unconfirmed accusations were launched against Bulgaria.

[Stoyanova] Did you have any connections with Kinteks?

[Lukanov] Kinteks is a foreign trade organization that, regarding its foreign economic activities, was under the eye [se nablyudavashe ot] of the Ministry of Foreign Trade and, later the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, which in particular applied to our arms exports. Arms exports in all countries are subject to certain requirements for state secrecy. Nevertheless, it was an activity carried out with the approval of the government. Certain markets were confirmed in advance in this respect, so the ministry controlled the Kinteks activities, but only in this particular respect.

[Stoyanova] Is it true that your sister and brother-in-law own an arms export company in Vienna?

[Lukanov] My brother-in-law is working as a business manager in a company, but as far as I know, he is not its owner, but an employee. The company is not involved in arms transactions.

[Stoyanova] You are deputy chairman of the BSP Supreme Council. The Supreme Council Presidium is expected to draft a declaration on the party's guilt and responsibility. Would you point out the name of Lilov, and even your own name, if necessary?

[Lukanov] Yes, this is true regarding the declaration. It will mention names, and I would not hesitate to cite my own name, if justified arguments and confirmed facts should be available. [passage omitted]

[Stoyanova] How would you comment on the declaration of the Podkrepa Trade Union Confederation saying that the total property of the BSP should be restored to the state?

[Lukanov] The declaration of the Podkrepa Trade Union Confederation is nothing but a call for a pogrom against the BSP. We signed a political agreement on the basis of which we committed ourselves to restore a considerable

portion of the party's property. Podkrepa bases its theory on the assumption that democracy means the existence of a society under which Socialists have been eliminated.

Lukanov Reportedly Refuses To Answer Charges

AU3103150291 Sofia DEMOKRATSIYA in Bulgarian 23 Mar 91 p 2

[Yuliana Dimitrova report]

[Text] It seems as if we have grown accustomed to Mr. Lukanov's prevarications. We have grown used to him reserving the right "to sue the slanderers in court within the periods established by law." These periods are very long, and matters have been greatly protracted, for almost a year now. It is true that a suit for slander is in progress, however, it was not started by Lukanov, but is against him. Mr. Lukanov remains silent about this case, and makes no appearances. We are already used to this.

We have grown accustomed to Mr. Lukanov not answering questions. No matter who asks the questions and in what manner, Mr. Lukanov either says nothing or evades them with lofty phrases, ducks them, or deflects them. Mr. Lukanov does not reply. He did not answer the question whether he maintained business contacts with the Globus arms smuggling company, or with the Turkish traffickers Muradoglu and his brother Mustafa. He declines to state his relationship with the Vienna company of Olga Mechkarska and Lyubomir Stoychev, the former husband of Lyudmila Zhivkova. Just as he refused to answer the cardinal question, Mr. Lukanov also withholds his replies to the "minor" questions of who subsidized his wife's luxury cookbook in Italy and whether the building materials for his villa in the village of Malka Tsurkva near Borovets were provided in the normal way.

Podkrepa Advises Branches To Prepare for Strike

AU0104152191 Sofia BTA in Bulgarian 1530 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 1 (BTA)—The Influential Podkrepa Trade Union Amalgamation, which has an observer's status in the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), has advised its branches to set up strike committees. Last November, Podkrepa's strike precipitated Socialist Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov's resignation. According to Podkrepa, Bulgaria is on the eve of decisive events, fateful for the future of social peace.

The Podkrepa Labor Confederation believes that all major items of the agreement, signed by the political forces early this year, have been frustrated. The trade union can no longer guarantee social peace and blames the politicians for this. Trade union leaders are warning that social tensions are becoming explosion-prone at a time when Podkrepa should sign an agreement with the government on the second stage of reform. "It is not our concern who is ruling this country, but how it is being ruled," trade union leader Konstantin Trenchev told journalists today.

Yesterday Podkrepa's Executive Council approved a declaration to the SDS, which was read before journalists today. The declaration says that Podkrepa will resort to trade-union actions because the present situation is adding fresh fuel to the ambitions of the middle echelons of business nomenklatura to restore the past by impeding the reform. The Podkrepa Trade Union recommends a strike standby to its branches as of today and will start a series of joint inspections with the ministries into the state and the activities of the industries where personnel cuts are impending. The Podkrepa declaration recommends that its natural allies in the SDS take actions to safeguard social peace.

SDS leader Filip Dimitrov told the regular opposition's news conference today that he finds a similarity between Podkrepa's conclusions and certain points in the SDS declaration adopted last Saturday at the meeting of the SDS National Consultative Council. He added that Podkrepa's stand is yet to be discussed by the SDS Coordinating Council.

Zhivkov on Inability To Pay Lawyers

AU0104195591 Sofia BTA in English 1921 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 1 (BTA)—For years on end Zhivkov's son Vladimir Zhivkov had two bodyguards, employees of the Security and Protection Department. They served him during his official and private trips abroad and were his shadows throughout the country from dawn till sunset, on shifts and everywhere he went. According to the bodyguards themselves their job was a tough one. "When it was necessary" they dressed and undressed, washed and ironed for their patron. Their job was also dangerous. One of them was "substituted" for another because he had taken the liberty of informing Todor Zhivkov of his son's outrages.

This became known at today's hearing of the Zhivkov, Balev trial. During the interrogation of the witnesses, most of whom were employees of the former Security and Protection Department, it did not become clear whether Vladimir Zhivkov really made his bodyguards kiss his hand. This question of Prosecutor Zhekov was turned down by the court panel.

I am aware that my lawyers may leave me and I do not blame them, Todor Zhivkov said after the break. I do not know whether I will be able to pay them the 6,000 leva a month fixed in our contract. I would like my lawyers to stay with me till the end of the trial, he said.

After lawyer Daniela Dokova confirmed the stand of the defense and the chairman of the panel asked defendant Zhivkov who he would choose as his appointed defense,

it became clear that the lawyers would not leave the courtroom "before the court takes a decision in line with the law."

Soviet Position on Kozloduy's USSR Experts

AU0204084591 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 26 Mar 91 p 1

[DUMA report: "USSR Representation On USSR Experts at 'Kozloduy' Nuclear Plant"]

[Text] At present the stay of more than 100 Soviet specialists, needed by the "Kozloduy" Nuclear Plant, depends on whether a mutually beneficial solution will be found by the interested Soviet and Bulgarian organizations; thus reads a letter to DUMA from the USSR trade representation to Bulgaria.

The "Atomenergoexport" Foreign Trade Trust has proposed to raise the value of the services rendered by the Soviet experts to $4,500 per month, which is close to the wages of the nuclear experts in the CSFR. The declaration points out that only a part of this amount will be used for paying the experts' wages.

Until 30 December 1990, the average wage of the Soviet experts working at the "Kozloduy" Nuclear Plant was 700 leva, an amount that was significantly lower than the wages of Bulgarian experts with the same qualifications.

The declaration expresses the hope that this clarification will facilitate the forming of a proper opinion about the situation regarding the Soviet nuclear specialists, who diligently implement their duties.

Trade Unions Demand Urgent Social Measures

AU0104200591 Sofia BTA in English 1936 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Sofia, April 1 (BTA)—After the Podkrepa Labor Confederation, another national trade union amalgamation—the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria (KNSB)—attacked the government today demanding urgent measures for solving the pressing social problems.

In a declaration, described as a social balance of the first 100 days of Prime Minister Dimitur Popov's cabinet, the KNSB makes a positive assessment of the first stage of the reform but insists on urgent measures for solving the social problems. The confederation insists that the administrative regulation measures be canceled as of June 1 and substituted for contract wages on a national scale. The KNSB also demands that all personnel cuts exceeding 30 percent be sanctioned by the trilateral branch government-employers-trade union commissions.

According to the KNSB the government is taking too much time with the programs on combating lasting unemployment and the opening of new jobs and on tax concessions for the companies, and parliament is taking too much time with the adoption of the key laws of the economic reform such as the Business Act, the Competition Act and the Foreign Investments Act.

The fate of the economic reform, and hence of social peace, is in the hands above all of the parliamentary political forces. To leave these problems aside because of tactical political and election considerations would mean to stop the process of the economic reform and the overall transition from a totalitarian to a democratic society, the declaration points out in conclusion.

Government To Continue Border Region Subsidies

AU3103154791 Sofia OTECHESTVEN VESTNIK in Bulgarian 23 Mar 91 p 2

[Text] People living and working in the border regions can remain free of worry, despite the expiration of the validity of Council of Ministers Decree No. 22 and the repeal of Decree No. 31. The government announces that the Council of Ministers and the municipal people's councils will continue in the future to fulfill the obligations they have assumed to the citizens under the agreements concluded with them and will continue to make additional labor remuneration payments for unfavorable and other specific working conditions.

The obligations assumed under the agreements will be met with funds from the state budget.

Teaching staff in the rural schools and educational establishments and family members living with them are guaranteed free accommodation, heating, and lighting. The Ministry of Finance will annually provide funds for building the necessary social and technical infrastructure in populated areas located along the southern and western borders, giving priority to road construction and water supplies. The social support role will be enhanced. Because of the deterioration in the age profile of the population in the border regions, additional measures will be taken to assist the socially disadvantaged.

Labor Affairs Minister Kiss on Unemployment

AU3003200691 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 25 Mar 91 p 4

[Interview with Labor Affairs Minister Gyula Kiss by Katalin Kende; place and date not given: "Has the State Escaped Responsibility?—Gyula Kiss Does Not Intend To Be the Minister of the Unemployed"—first paragraph is NEPSZAVA introduction]

[Excerpts] In one of his first interviews, Gyula Kiss stressed that he does not wish to be the minister of the unemployed. How can this statement be interpreted in a country with growing unemployment?

[Kiss] I am striving for an active employment policy so the smallest number of people need to rely on unemployment benefits. I know that this year is going to be the year of great difficulties, and that more and more people will find themselves on the streets. Nevertheless, we have to understand that unemployment is a painful, negative byproduct of an economic process that is positive in itself, that of the road to a market economy, with which we have to coexist for a long time. Of course, this is an intolerable situation for the unemployed. Therefore, one of our most urgent tasks is to create rules to implement the employment law, to set up a national chain of employment agencies; that is, to take all the steps to promote the success of the law.

[Kende] The solidarity fund that is part of the law is made up of contributions by employers and employees—in other words, the state more or less passed the responsibility to society.

[Kiss] The state did not decline this responsibility. The creation of the solidarity fund reflects the practice of market economies. The main point is that the most affected partners share responsibility in providing for the unemployed, in setting them up in new jobs, and in alleviating the employment tensions in various areas and sectors of our economy.

[Kende] The broad involvement of society is very nice. Still, the government should be responsible to promote short and long term investment into creating new workplaces....

[Kiss] Changing to a market economy requires that the state also greatly reduce its role in job creation; however, the intervention of the state is unavoidable: for example, in the permanently underdeveloped areas with few employment opportunities, as in North Borsod, in Nyirseg, Hajdusag and in the southern parts of Zala county. In these areas the state has to promote the creation of work places, mainly by developing the necessary infrastructure and by increasing the ability to absorb. The industries in crisis laden with out-of-date machinery, and factories unable to sell their products, also cannot do without the support of the state.

[Kende] What sort of programs do you have in mind?

[Kiss] Our department can use the centralized portion of the employment fund to help initiatives that provide employment for the long term unemployed. Our budget allocated 1.5 billion forints for the state subsidy of underdeveloped areas, two-thirds of which will be used for creating new job opportunities. A government decree is being prepared, according to which state finance will also be available through tenders for investment in expanding work places. This way there will be opportunity to create eight to ten thousand new work places. [passage omitted]

[Kende] What is your ministry doing to make the employment training of the youth and the retraining of the adults suitable to the economic demands of the future?

[Kiss] We are trying to achieve a broader and more established vocational training, so that the youth can modify their career or change profession which is so frequently required in a market economy. In adult training the requirement is no less than the fast and flexible adjustment to the needs of the economy; therefore, we are working on a new adult training system. The bill for vocational training is in the making which will be submitted to Parliament this year. we hope it will provide suitable conditions for a vocational training that reflects the changing conditions.

Audit Office on Financial Misconduct by Parties

LD2903151891 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] The State Audit Office held a news briefing on the investigations they carried out last year into the political parties. Erno Kardos reports.

[Kardos] Not a single Hungarian party had an accurate financial balance last year. They carried out their financial deals without the appropriate economic knowledge, which, if we consider that the budget spent 100 million [currency not specified] on the political parties, must have meant an uncertain fate of quite a lot of money. If similar malpractices had been committee by already operating enterprises, then the Audit Office would have initiated proceedings in many more cases, they said at the press briefing of the Audit Office.

At the same time it is also true, Istvan Hagelmayer [not further identified] added, that the laws providing for the parties' financial operation are not clear. In many cases they can be misinterpreted. It is also a fact that the Socialist Party, for example, acknowledged that it had operated the (?Foreign) Ministry quest house in an unlawful manner. It indeed wanted to pay the income on a central, that is a state account, but there was no central state account. The Alliance of Free Democrats acted similarly, amidst different circumstances. The Hungarian Democratic Forum sought to terminate its banned trading activity. And it is true, in general, that after the unfolding of the malpractices they were keen to end the unlawful activities.

The Audit Office, however, has sequestered the assets of two parties, the Hungarian Liberal Party and the Radical Party.

SZDSZ Comments on Compensation Bill Revision

LD2903150491 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1100 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] There was, of course, mention of the FIDESZ [Federation of Young Democrats] proposal at the news briefing of the Alliance of Free Democrats [SZDSZ], too. Zoltan Sipos reports.

[Sipos] For the moment the SZDSZ has suspended the submission of its application to the Constitutional Court in which the 50 members of the party's parliamentary group ask for revision of the points of the compensation bill violating the Constitution. At today's briefing the SZDSZ reacted only to the affect of the FIDESZ proposal on the compensation bill. Although Ivan Petoe, on behalf of the executive body, stressed that the SZDSZ was not averse to any kind of initiative, he called it to everyones attention that the six-party coordination talks could not lead to success. According to the Free Democrats, this is because it is impossible to agree on the critical points of the compensation bill until the coalition parties have taken a common position. In the SZDSZ's view, the six- party coordination talks, at which all parties should be given the right to veto, would result in the Smallholders' Party and the small parties to be able to have more say in the issue than their weight justifies.

The SZDSZ is waiting now until a decision is made by the government coalition as to whether it accepts the FIDESZ proposal or not. At the same time they continue to claim that in its present form the compensation bill violates the Constitution. They, however, will only submit the proposal for revision if no progress is made and the debate on the bill is continued after the parliamentary break. Besides, they are convinced that the government ignores the already formulated expert opinion of the Constitutional Court, because that endangers the maintainability of the coalition.

Opinion Poll on Police Activity Published

AU0104085691 Budapest MAGYAR NEMZET in Hungarian 27 Mar 91 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Report on Public Safety—People Have Lost Faith in Policemen Because...."]

[Excerpts] At the request of the Hungarian Interior Ministry, the French-Hungarian media, opinion, and market research institute called Szonda-Ipsos carried out an opinion poll in December 1990, an opinion poll among 1,000 people representing Hungary's adult population. Below, we inform the readers about the data referring to police activity.

The change in our political regime had a serious effect on the life of every organization in Hungary. Naturally, it takes time to adjust to the new conditions. Do people sense any changes in police activity? In the view of an overwhelming majority of the people surveyed, the police served those in power, rather than the citizens 10 years ago. As for the current situation, those surveyed were far from being so unanimous in their views. [passage omitted]

In connection with the activity of residential district police stations, people expressed more dissatisfaction than satisfaction. Almost half of the people who participated in the survey were critical of these police stations: Some 21 percent of these people were highly dissatisfied with their local police, and 27 percent were slightly dissatisfied with their local police. Only 9 percent said that they were very satisfied with their local police stations, and 29 percent said that they were only a little satisfied with their local police stations. [passage omitted]

Although most of the people who participated in this survey do not think that violent actions are characteristic of police activity, such cases do occur sometimes. Some 57 percent of the people think that, in such cases, policemen are right in applying force, and 28 percent of the people think that it is impossible to give a clear-cut answer to this question: force is justified in some cases, and it is not justified in other cases. Only 8 percent of the people who participated in this survey said that police activity is characterized by unjustified actions. [passage omitted]

According to our survey, the population tolerates almost all the basic supervisory functions of the police. A large majority of the people who participated in this survey would accept identity checks (91 percent), traffic control (88 percent), and even requests to provide testimony as a witness (85 percent). [passage omitted]

Country 'Taking On' New World Bank Loan

LD2903090891 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0800 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Hungary is taking on a further $150-million World Bank loan, over a 15-year period, to cope with unemployment. It can be used to retrain, train managers, and teach languages.

Electric Power Expert on Energy Prospects

AU0204091591 Budapest NEPSZAVA in Hungarian 26 Mar 91 p 4

[Interview with Gyorgy Vajda, director of the Electric Power Research Institute and chairman of the Technical Department of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, by Miklos Bonta; place and date not given: "Science Should Be Freed From Politics—Our Energy Dependence"—first paragraph is NEPSZAVA introduction]

[Excerpts] The claim that the domestic power industry is a burden for the Hungarian national economy is wrong

on several accounts, nor is the view correct according to which the domestic power industry is using up budget resources that could be used to create the bases of a modern industry. Many experts have recently said that Hungary still lacks an energy concept for the period after the turn of the century. [passage omitted]

[Bonta] As an applied researcher, how do you foresee the future of the Hungarian electric power industry? Is Hungary's supply with electric power guaranteed?

[Vajda] It is guaranteed today. As for the future, I would not bet on it. Our electric power consumption has been decreasing for years: 40.2 billion kilowatt/hours [kwh] in 1989, and 39.2 billion kwh in 1990; a consumption of 38 billion kwh electric power is planned for 1991. The situation will immediately change with economic development and the appearance of new consumers.

We depend on Soviet energy imports. In addition to the Soviet economic and political problems, we are negatively affected by the nuclear power moratorium in the Ukraine: No nuclear power station will be put into operation in this area until 1995. (The remaining blocks in Chernobyl will probably function until 1995.) Worn-out power stations, however, must be stopped. Antinuclear power station movements are also increasing in the Soviet Union. [passage omitted]

[Bonta] What kind of power stations should we develop if we want to fully meet our domestic electric power needs?

[Vajda] Electric power is not a product that can be purchased on the market. It needs a network and power stations. We must dissipate the environmental worries of the population with intelligent arguments. The planning and construction of conventional power stations take seven to eight years, and the planning and construction of nuclear power stations take 10 years. A country like Hungary, which is strongly dependent on energy imports, should rely on power stations fueled by coal, hydrocarbons, and nuclear power alike. In the short term, the future belongs to the gas-fueled power stations. [passage omitted]

[Bonta] Will we build nuclear power stations?

[Vajda] We probably will. If we present our positions with objectivity and do not hide the dangers either, society will understand that increasingly modern nuclear power stations have a place in Hungary too. Our Research Institute worked out a diagnosis system that constantly records the events in our Nuclear Power Station in Paks. This nuclear power station in Paks is among the world's 10 safest nuclear power stations. New blocks should be set up somewhere along the Danube, but far from large population centers.

[Bonta] Can we count on other sources of energy, like hydroelectric power, geothermal power, or solar energy?

[Vajda] None of these can be a main energy source for Hungary. [passage omitted]

Historical Commission Established With Slovaks

AU2803154891 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 25 Mar 91 p 4

["(tf)"-signed report: "A Beam of Light Into the Realm of Darkness"]

[Text] Budapest—Hungarian National Assembly Chairman Gyorgy Szabad and Slovak National Council [SNR] Chairman Frantisek Miklosko met during the interparliamentary conference. They signed a communique marking a new quality in relations between our countries. Apropos this event, Frantisek Miklosko said the following to NARODNA OBRODA's Budapest correspondent:

When we were here at the beginning of February with Prime Minister Vladimir Meciar, our parliaments submitted a constructive proposal—which had been discussed earlier—that we repeat visits to each other's countries and create conditions for close cooperation between the SNR and the Hungarian National Assembly's parliamentary committees, their libraries, and information systems. We have just agreed to establish a joint commission to look into controversial issues in our histories. Now Chairman Gyorgy Szabad has invited us to consider the proposal for a definitive version. Along with Ambassador Rudolf Chmel, we drafted the entire proposal into a communique and we signed it on 22 March.

A key topic from the results of the discussions is the establishment of a joint commission to look into the period before, during, and after World War I. On the Hungarian side, obviously, the most important issue will be the Vienna arbitrage, and on the Slovak side, the most important issues will be the problem of the "principle of collective responsibility" and the consequences arising from its implementation. This was enshrined in the Kosice government program and, on the basis of this, Hungarians were then evacuated. Deformations and conflicts during the times of dictatorship will also be at the forefront. If the commission's members were to agree on mutually acceptable points of view apropos these problematic issues and adopt a declaration in which each side would be able to express its views, this could mark an important step toward the future. I am surprised that the Hungarian side also ascribes great significance to this. Our private meeting during the evening with President Arpad Goncz, who invited us to his residence, also took place in this spirit. Not only did we spend a pleasant evening with him, we also discussed our mutual relations in the heart of Central Europe. I am able to say without embarrassment that it was not difficult for us to agree upon how our coexistence should look. This was how the second aspect of our useful visit to Budapest turned out. I personally attach very great significance to this for the future.

Kadar Holds Trade Talks With Spanish Official

LD2903152891 Budapest MTI in English 1415 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Budapest, March 29, 1991 (MTI-ECONEWS)—Virgilio Zapatero Gomez, Spanish minister of relations with the Cortes and secretary to the government, paid a two-day visit to Hungary.

On Friday he met minister of international economic relations Bela Kadar.

Mr Kadar informed his colleague about the country's transition to the market economy and prospects of the re-orientation of exports.

He said that after 1991 Hungary can look into the future with cautious optimism.

Comparing the Spanish transition of the mid-1970s with current processes in Hungary, Kadar pointed out that besides the similarities there are also a number of differences. The most significant one is perhaps that in Spain, political transformation was preceded by 20 years of economic prosperity, while Hungary had at least ten years of stagnation.

Virgilio Zapatero Gomez informed Bela Kadar about preparations for the 1992 World Expo in Seville. The Hungarian minister is responsible for hungary's participation in the Seville Expo. The parties agreed that a world exposition is a powerful pull for a country's economy.

Last year Hungarian exports to Spain amounted to 64 million USD and imports, to 41 million USD [U.S. dollars]. Bilateral turnover actually grew by 20 per cent over the previous year, and 10-15 per cent growth is projected for this year.

There are some 20 Hungarian-Spanish joint ventures in operation. Most of them were set up with a small capital, mainly for trading and service activities.

The principal Hungarian exports to Spain are meat and meat products, lamps, leather and pharmaceutical products. About 12 million USD worth of the total meat exports of 20 million USD is sold on the Canary Islands where the EC rules do not apply.

Roman Receives ADEVARUL Delegation

AU0104185891 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1823 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—Members of the "ADEVARUL" Steering Board were received by the Prime Minister Monday [1 April] afternoon upon their request. They outlined the present state in the creation of the "ADEVARUL" shareholding company to which all employees contribute capital and pointed to the obstacles that block the process. The concerns of the "ADEVARUL" journalists to maintain their newspaper's independence status and its orientation which meets the demands of broad sections of readers were also stressed.

Prime Minister Roman assured the delegation of the government's favorable stance and of its prizing the firm position of the "ADEVARUL" daily.

FSN National Convention Results Discussed

AU0104202091 Bucharest DREPTATEA in Romanian 26 Mar 91 pp 1, 3

["Second part" of Dora Mezdrea article: "A Future for Romania?—Without History, Without Memory, Without God"]

[Excerpts] In the first part of my article I promised to return to the issue of the national convention of the National Salvation Front [FSN] and write about a few more picturesque moments of the convention. During the convention a number of records were set. [passage omitted]

The first one is the record of the number of laws. "I do not believe that there is an executive power in the world that drafted 100 laws in only six months" says Mr. Mugur Isarescu [Romanian National Bank governor]. The record for mythomania was set by Mr. Adrian Severin. He talks about the successes of the governmental program, flourishing and increasing them, while noting that the program has no significance whatsoever for the deterioration of Romania's image abroad. He believes that all successes are owed exclusively to the governmental program and that Europe is assisting Romania because it trusts this program. Meanwhile, he ignores the chances the Gulf war presented the government and the feelings of culpability of the West which, noticing that the new Romanian leadership is again directed toward the aberrant models such as the Chinese model, decided to throw it a life preserver. The third record is the one that we could call the FSN-trend as world doctrine. This can be seen in the address of the delegate of Constanta, Mr. Adrian Radulescu, who is competing dangerously with Senator Dumitrascu's performances: "This party should be a general expression of the 23 million Romanians who live in the Carpathian-Danubian-Pontic area, and, if I were to go further, let us not forget that we also have 5-6 million Romanians living abroad. The Bessarabians are our Bessarabians and our Moldovans living in the Soviet Moldova are our Romanians, and in the Balkan region they are also our Romanians and finally, the Romanians who blindly left for the West and over the ocean are also our Romanians. We should take care of all of them. This program that we advanced should include these Romanians and should take care of them; we have to turn to them through all possible means, and that is why I believe that the program with a propaganda nature—as somebody said before—should be clarified and the exact way of turning to these Romanians should be included in the party's statute...." (the coherence of speech belongs to the speaker). It was the same Mr. Radulescu who marked a beginning of the cult of personality, by elevating our poor current leaders to the level of great personalities of our nation: "It is a moment of great significance in the history of our country since Cuza and Kogalniceanu; there have been other reforms so far, undoubtedly, but a reform like this one, which as a matter of fact means the opposite of all malversations...etc." The record of demagogy is set—as usual—by Mr. Petre Roman who emphasizes that: "We have never resorted to a demagogic language." Let us see if it is indeed true. He uses expressions like legal state, separation of power, and democracy; however, he identifies the FSN party with the government. "The responsibility that I hold within the FSN is above my responsibilities as prime minister." And as far as Mr. Iliescu is concerned—who sent a warm message to the National Convention—Mr. Roman comments: "Let us express thanks for this warm message that shows that Mr. Iliescu is still with us." [passage omitted]

Another record, set by Mr. Marcel Izbasoiu, delegate of Covasna County, is the record for sincerity. He told us how difficult it was for them in the Covasna County to win the elections and to stay in power. "Do not forget that 'Down with Iliescu' was written there on each wall"—he says. "After the revolution we went into each house, to Hungarians and Romanians alike, to all people of good faith. All these people came to cast their votes. In a village of 4,186 families that includes 526 Romanian families, we succeeded in convincing even those who were against us and ultimately even they voted for us." [passage omitted]

Party Leaders Air Views on Price Liberalization

AU0104142191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1012 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—Starting April 1, 1991 Romania passed to the second price liberalization stage which is part of the government's reform programme.

The government decided to set upper permissible limits for the retail sales of basic foodstuff as follows: pork meat (first quality) 90 lei/kg, beef meat (first quality) 100 lei/kg, chicken meat (without legs and heads) 60 lei/kg, eggs 3 lei/piece, milk 10 lei/l, butter 25 lei/200 g, sheep cheese 100 lei/kg, cow cheese 60 lei/kg, sugar 32 lei/kg,

sunflower oil 40 lei/l, white 500-g bread 9 lei/piece. These prices are double or even triple in comparison with the old ones.

The government gives money handouts for these increases of prices which are greater than the handouts in the first price liberalization stage: for employees from 750 lei to about 2,100 lei, for pensioners from 400 lei to 1,400 lei, students' and pupils' scholarships increase with 500 lei each, social securities increase with 360 lei each, the children allowances increase with 200 lei each, while the maternal allowances increase with 1,000 lei for each mother. It considered that the money handouts cover about 60-65 per cent of the increases of prices. The indexation will be revised every month.

The money handouts are different for employees function of the enterprise; the budgetary units, pensioners and social securities' beneficiaries receive money from the budget.

The Second Price Liberalization Stage—Opinions of Parties' Representatives:

The "CURIERUL NATIONAL" daily inserts in its latest issue the points of view expressed by representatives of political parties in connection with the second price liberalization stage in force since April 1, 1991.

Vasile Mois, National Salvation Front senator: the price liberalization is a hard, radical measure which involves sacrifices on behalf of the population. Will all of us understand it? An economic programme, no matter how academically it may be elaborated, has only one judge: life.

I.V. Sandulescu, first vice president of the National Liberal Party: the prices had to be adjusted function of the costs of raw materials and production means. This liberalization had to take place in only one stage and only after appropriation in order that a real competition be set. In the absence of trade and industry privatisation, of a real social protection and of a demand at least equal to the offer, liberalization cannot be but a burden for the common man.

Zoltan Hosszu, senator of the Hungarian Democratic Union of Romania: this is not a liberalization but an increase of prices. We cannot talk about price liberalization without goods in abundance and a real competition among economic agents.

Nica Leon, president of the Free Democratic Party: both price liberalization stages are but genuine "sacrificial curves" supported by the population. This is not a genuine price liberalization as long as not a single product has become cheaper. I consider it much more fair to speak about increase of prices.

Ioan Lup, general secretary of the National Christian-Democratic Peasant Party: in the current conditions when goods are scarce, liberalization leads to chaos. It is the result of not having encouraged privatisation, especially in the productive sector. Another immediate consequence will be unemployment which, in my opinion, will affect over one million people.

Dinu Patriciu, president of the National Liberal Party Young Wing: we agree with liberalization but it should be total not limited. We do not agree with these limits introduced by the government. Our alternative would be firstly the definition of the property notion.

Petre Fetcu, first vice president of the Party of the Alliance for Democracy: price liberalization is a phenomenon that cannot and should not be stopped. Our alternative starts from the necessity of observing privatisation from bottom to top, in the big industry included, with the help of foreign countries.

New Mail and Telecommunications Tariffs

On April 1, 1991 new mail and telecommunications tariffs come into force in Romania. In accordance with the government's resolution on the second stage of price and tariff liberalization, maximal increase will be as follows: for telecommunication services home subscribers 25 per cent; for radio-communication services 75 per cent.

Tariffs for public telephones and simple telegrams will be kept unchanged so that all social strata may have access to such services.

Tariffs for long-distance telephone calls will rise by maximum 25 per cent as against tariffs in force after the February 1990 reduction, except to some former socialist countries with which we used to have payment agreements in rubles, at lower tariffs. Tariffs are now calculated by 4 European zones, plus one special zone the Republic of Moldova depending on distance from Romania and number of transit, as well as by 2 world zones.

Government Decision on 'Cash Handouts'

AU0104185491 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1709 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—The second price and tariff liberalization stage that starts in Romania on 1 April carries cash handouts for employees and all beneficiaries of the social security system, a government decision sent to the press announces.

Monthly compensations are set at 2,100 lei for working people and 1,470 lei for pensioners, adding to which are extra sums paid to invalid pensioners' assistants 225 lei, to the assistants to war widows, orphans and invalids 375, and to the wives of conscripts 390 lei. State child benefits have been raised by 220 lei, high-school student scholarships by 800 lei, higher-school students by 960 lei, as handouts payable to non scholarship recipients will stand at 550 for high-school students and 730 lei for higher-school students, provided their monthly family incomes are below 20,000 lei.

The same decision sets the all-country lowest pre-tax base salary at 4675 lei for April 1991 (for 170 working hours, or 27.50 lei per hour on an average) and at 5975 lei for the month of May (also for 170 working hours averaging 35.15 lei per hour).

No cash handouts shall be given to pensioners who draw more than 6,000 lei per month which repay former Communist Party aparatchiks or Securitate staff.

The Labor and Social Security Ministry and the Finance Ministry will have until 15 June to draft a government scheme for the indexation of salaries and pensions along with other social security measures that will take effect from the third quarter of the year.

Cornea Favors Monarchy To Solve Problems

AU0104143091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1004 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—The sole guarantee for a complete breakaway with the communist totalitarianism, for "divorcing Moscow" is in Mrs. Doina Cornea's opinion the monarchy that "can keep in balance the country's centrifugal forces and ensure a normal functioning of institutions".

"We've got a king who has witnessed the experience of communism, even if he was very young, and who has proved he cannot be manipulated", the leader of Romania's Anti-totalitarian Democratic Front stated in a press conference on the visit she paid at the end of March to France and Belgium at the invitation of several political organisations and of the universities of the two countries.

Doina Cornea said that the "mild sentences" pronounced at the end of the trial of the members of the former Executive Political Committee are "in line with the current political power" ("which relies on the former nomenclature and the Securitate"), and called on Hungarian minorities "not to take into consideration" the threats and insults in the "ROMANIA MARE" Nationalist extremist newspaper and expressed her "concern" over the treaty ("the contents of which we do not know") Romania has recently concluded with the Soviet Union.

Agrarian Party Leader on Bessarabia, Minorities

AU0104185291 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1559 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—Bessarabia's independence and sovereignty, its union or not with the homeland, its other major aspects make the exclusive object of its parliament and government's policy and, in the last analysis, of the will of those living in that territory, opines the leader of the Agrarian Democratic Party of Romania, Victor Surdu. But that does not mean that we are indifferent to the suffering of our brothers across the Prut, he told a ROMPRES editor. Certainly, we do not stage street demonstrations as all kinds of organizations, groups and associations like Pro-Bessarabia and Bucovina and others do. For us it is clear that Bessarabia is a Romanian land, that Romanian is spoken there. We are for a simplification of the Prut crossing procedures, for economic cooperation, cultural exchanges, scholarships for Bessarabian pupils and students to study in Romania. Of particular importance are the intensification of economic relations with productive units in Bessarabia, the conclusion of accords to process their raw materials here in Romania, more particularly in agriculture, and return them as highly processed products.

An important provision in our platform refers to the attitude vis-a-vis ethnic minorities in Romania, a question we have made public also at conferences in some of the so-called hot regions where there is a denser minority population. We are of the opinion that the ethnic minorities' question is amplified by a minority of minorities which aims at turning it into an electoral capital, Mr. Surdu concluded.

Turkish Foreign Minister Alptemocin Pays Visit

Arrives in Bucharest

AU0104142091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1055 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—On Monday [1 April] morning the Turkish minister of foreign affairs Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin who is paying a visit to Romania arrived in Bucharest.

On his arrival the guest was welcomed by the Romanian minister of foreign affairs, Adrian Nastase.

Makes Statement Upon Arrival

AU0104185391 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1523 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—Upon his arrival in Romania, Mr. Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin, minister of foreign affairs of Turkey, stated among other things: I shall have the opportunity to debate several topics with my colleague and friend, Mr. Nastase. Certainly, we shall approach questions related to bilateral ties as well as to the Black Sea economic area and to Balkan cooperation, the Gulf crisis in the post-conflictual period and the plans for peace in the area. Of course we shall also discuss other topics of mutual interest. I hope my sojourn in Romania will be fruitful.

In connection with the Turkish minister's visit, Mr. Adrian Nastase said: after a round of negotiations and discussions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr. Minister Alptemocin will be received by Prime Minister Petre Roman and Romania's President Mr. Ion Iliescu.

Lays Wreath, Meets Imam

AU0104185091 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1602 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—Monday, 1 April, Turkey's Minister of Foreign Affairs Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin, while on a visit to Romania, laid a flower wreath at the Memorial of the Turkish soldiers killed in the World War One.

Attending the ceremony were Romanian officials, the leader of Turkish-Moslem community in Romania, the imam of the Moslem cult in Bucharest, members of the community.

Turkey's ambassador to Bucharest, Tugay Ulucevik and Romania's ambassador to Ankara, Alexandru Margaritescu were also present.

Holds Talks With Nastase

AU0104185591 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1727 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—The positive course of the bilateral political contacts for the past six months was pointed out Monday [April] afternoon by the chief of the Turkish diplomacy, Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin who conferred, at the Victoria Palace in Bucharest, with his Romanian counterpart Adrian Nastase.

Recalling the spirit of the Romanian-Turkish Treaty of 1933, the sides agreed on the importance of a new treaty of cooperation and neighborliness to reflect the changes and the new relations between the two states and consented to start expert negotiations for the drafting of the new treaty that should be ready for signing in the nearest future, possibly during the visit to Romania of Turkey's President Turgut Ozal.

The sides agreed to boost ties at executive level for the promotion of cooperation between economic agents, the setup of adequate institutions, such as a joint chamber of commerce, as well as cultural and touristic exchanges.

The international topics approached were the cooperation in the Balkans, the planned Black Sea economic zone, the consequences of the recent Gulf conflict and the diplomatic efforts for peace and stability in the area.

Received by Prime Minister Roman

AU0104185691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1801 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—During their interview on Monday, 1 April, Romanian Prime Minister Petre Roman and Turkey's Foreign Minister Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin agreed on speeding up the development of the cooperation between their two countries on the basis of a more appropriate and comprehensive juridical framework.

In the context, it was stressed it was important to embark as soon as possible on negotiations by experts for concluding treaties on cooperation and good neighborhood between Romania and Turkey for making use of the possibilities existing in the two countries. The treaties could be signed during the visit of Turkey's President Turgut Ozal to Romania.

Received by President Iliescu

AU0104185791 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1821 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—During his visit to Romania, Turkey's minister of foreign affairs, Ahmet Kurtcebe Alptemocin met President Ion Iliescu this afternoon at the Cotroceni Palace.

The minister handed President Iliescu a message from President Turgut Ozal and conferred with him on the stage of the bilateral relations and the prospects for a Black Sea economic cooperation zone.

At the end of the interview, the guest stated for the press:

"I visited Romania before as a minister of state and as a minister of finance. I am here for the first time as minister of external affairs. I have come to the conclusion that we can achieve what we proposed during the interviews I have had here. Of course we still have a lot to do. We wish, in the first place, to diversify the relations between our countries. Politically speaking, there are no problems between Turkey and Romania. We share the same views on the establishment of a Black Sea economic zone and on cooperation in the Balkans. I have had successive talks with Prime Minister Petre Roman and President Ion Iliescu. Soon President Turgut Ozal will visit Romania, which will strengthen the cooperation between our countries".

Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase, who attended the interview, stated in his turn:

"We have had extremely interesting talks today and I think that worth mentioning is the idea that what we must practically do is use our imagination to find new ways, going even further, for things we have already done and that work well. We have started negotiations on a new bilateral treaty of cooperation and friendship and are now trying to give more economic substance to our political contacts."

Attending were also Romanian Ambassador Al. Margaritescu and Turkish Ambassador Tugai Ulucevik.

Holds News Conference in Bucharest

TA0204081291 Ankara Domestic Service in Turkish 2100 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Cagatay Demir report on news conference by Turkish Foreign Minister Kurtcebe Alptemocin with unidentified foreign and domestic reporters in Bucharest on 1 April]

[Text] Alptemocin said that details for a friendship and cooperation agreement to be signed with Romania will be finalized during President Turgut Ozal's visit to Romania, scheduled to take place within the next few months. He explained that opportunities for cooperation exist in various fields and can be exploited if the political authorities and the peoples of the two countries so decide and desire.

He continued: The Romanian Administration and Turkey have identical political views, and they share the same values. Relations between the two countries have always been good. This relationship continued to develop after the revolution.

In response to questions by Romanian journalists during his news conference, Alptemocin said that the Black Sea Economic Cooperation project is supported by all Black Sea countries except for Bulgaria, whose reservations would be eliminated in the next few days.

Recalling that the current Bulgarian Administration has declared that it is abandoning the minority policies pursued by Zhivkov, Alptemocin said that should this new policy be implemented, no problems will remain. He said that minorities should be seen as a bond between the countries involved and not the contrary.

On the Cyprus issue, he called on the Greek Cypriots, the Greeks, and all other parties interested in the problem to unite to reach a final agreement, based on a just and genuine solution acceptable to all.

Ratiu's Statements at Vienna Meeting Noted

AU0104185191 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1606 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—Assessing as "very useful" the recent round table meeting in Vienna on Europe, Ion Ratiu a member of Romania's Lower Chamber of Parliament for the Christian and Democratic National Peasant Party told a ROMPRES reporter that the name of the Republic of Moldova was included in the final act of the meeting on his request. More specifically, he said, a sentence was added to the final act under a point dealing with minorities, nationalities and regions in the new architecture of Europe to the effect that, in the Republic of Moldova and in other republics, governments legitimized by the people came to power. Ion Ratiu brought historical arguments to the Vienna meeting requesting the sympathy of the Europeans for both the Baltics and the Republic of Moldova, because he said, they were seized by the USSR on the same occasion, under the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact.

Moldovan President's TV Interview Reported

AU0104200691 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1856 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Bucharest, ROMPRES, 1/4/1991—The Republic of Moldova does not intend to sign the union treaty, President Mircea Ion Snegur said in an interview with the Romanian Television.

Speaking about the actions aimed at sovereignty, he mentioned the conclusion of agreements "on the horizontal" with the union republics, and direct contacts with other countries. However, he said, real sovereignty has not been achieved yet and the center forces are still very powerful so that "a fight has to be fought on".

In reference to the recent Romanian-Soviet treaty initialed in Moscow, he said that its provision on Romania's possibility to have relations with the republics within the USSR means that it also can have relations with the Republic of Moldova, wherefore specific measures have been taken by the Foreign Ministries of the two countries on that line. In context, Mircea Snegur said that in speaking about those relations "a Russia of Boris Yeltsin, of the democratic platform" should also be considered.

On the troops spread throughout the territory of the republic, President Snegur said that the Republic of Moldova wished negotiations with the USSR Defense Ministry for them to be withdrawn from its territory.

Situation in Vukovar Municipality Tense

LD0104143291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1224 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Vukovar, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—The situation in some villages of the Vukovar municipality is under a strain. There are still roadblocks in the Serbian-populated villages of Borovo Selo, Bobota, and Pacetina. The citizens there are saying that this has come about because they fear police intervention.

Although shots were heard in some places, according to what the citizens say, only physical force without firearms was used in a clash between citizens in Borovo Selo and members of Vukovar's police station. Several members of the police sustained light injuries and some individuals had their weapons taken.

Official information is still hard to get, which only fuels further anxiety and insecurity among the citizens.

Serbs Deny Rumors of Planting Railroad Mines

AU0104153691 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] The latest news coming to Borovo Selo from the Croatian Ministry for Internal Affairs and the Croatian leadership reads:

Goran Hadzic and Boro Savic [members of the Serbian Democratic Party from Slavonia arrested in Plitvice] will be in detention until 1700 when talks will be held with them and the representatives of the Serbian Democratic Party for Slavonia and Baranja.

Employees from the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Croatia and the Croatian Democratic Community have not stopped disturbing people in many Slavonian villages. These employees are already positioned in some villages.

The Serbian Democratic Party of Vukovar has denied the report that the Borovo-Bogojevo railroad was mined [miniran] and stated that these rumors have been spread maliciously by the Croatian Democratic Community.

Explosion on Knin-Sibenik Rail Line

LD0104155191 Zagreb Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1500 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] A blast damaged 5 meters of the Knin-Sibenik rail line between the villages of Siveric and Kosovo, according to first reports. Although the damage has been repaired, all communications between Sibenik—that is, Drnis—and Knin are disrupted.

Since last night, trains have not run from Sibenik to Zabgreb and vice versa. Coaches from Sibenik are having to stop in Drnis. We have learned that all trains [from Sibenik] had to end their journey in Drnis, and nothing is known about when they will start running again. Traffic on roads around Sibenik and Drnis is disrupted.

In preparation for similar and more stringent controls, barricades of the self-professed police forces have been erected near Bratiskovic in the municipality of Sibenik and in Tepljuh, on the Drnis-Knin road. This evening, three additional coaches will leave Sibenik for Zagreb via Senj.

The situation in Drnis is calm, without incidents. Following mass cancellations, only 700 tourists are on the Sibenik riviera. They did not face any particular problems with accommodations or transport.

Army, Croatian Interior Ministry Officials Meet

LD0104161791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1315 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Plitvice, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—A working meeting was held this morning in Plitvice between the commander of units of the Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP] of Croatia and the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA], at which, HINA [Croatian News Agency]reports, there was an exchange of information on the current situation following yesteday's clashes between the Croatian constabulary and terrorists—members of the Secretariat for International Affairs of the so-called Krajina. The commander of the special-purpose units of the MUP of Croatia (whom HINA says wished to remain anonymous) stated that the main purpose of the meting was to reach agreement so a chance incident on either side might be avoided.

Peace prevails in the Plitvice area, but tension continues to be present. Strong Army forces are controlling all the important approach roads. Apart from the MUP and JNA patrols, the only vehicles on the move are those carrying journalists. Military forces that consist of tens of armored and other vehicles are located between the bridge over the Korana River and the settlement of Borje, and at the entry to this region they are checking the identity of passersby.

The headquarters of the police units of the Republic of Croatia is in the Hotel Plitvice while the military headquarters, which is commanded by Major General Ivan Stimac, is in the Nikola Tesla memorial center in Mukinje.

One of the commanders of the Croatian police units says that no one has been withdrawn from his unit and that it will remain here pending receipt of a different order from the ministry. The last guests left the Hotel Plitvice this morning; they had come for their Easter holidays, but despite yesterday's armed clash, they stayed on in accordance with their previously planned reservation.

Croatian Council Views Events in Plitvice

LD0104164791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1552 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—The Croatian Council for National Defense and Protection of Constitutional Order, chaired by Croatian President Franjo Tudjman discussed at today's session the political situation in the republic following last week's events in the Plitvice

Lakes complex and the statement from the 31 March SFRY Presidency's emergency session.

The council, a statement reveals, assesses positively the action of the Internal Affairs Ministry special police forces aimed at reestablishing public and legal order on the territory of the Plitvice National Park. It also assesses that the incursion of an extremists group of the so-called Serbian autonomous region of Krajina and its attempts to provoke an armed conflict show that we are going through a period of accelerating political crisis, when force is being used to secure political solutions before the changeover of the SFRY Presidency on 15 May.

The council also assessed that the incursion of a group of bandits into the Plitvice National Park was part of a plan to topple the democratic government in the Croatian republic. The council then went on to stress in the statement that the entire Croatian public welcomed the action of the Internal Affairs Ministry special forces as a necessary countermeasure against extremism and terrorism.

The council also emphasized "the urgent assistance of Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] units in evacuating people wounded in the clash between police forces and terrorists."

Considering the conclusions from the 31 March SFRY Presidency emergency session, the council concluded that they are all unacceptable, the statement reveals, "and it is especially unacceptable that an emergency session of the SFRY Presidency is being convened for any, even the smallest, action aimed at establishing peace and order on certain parts of the Croatian republic. This is not customary to do when other critical events are unfolding in other republics and provinces."

The council stated that, "no armed conflict occcured in Plitvice, as claimed by the SFRY Presidency, but terrorist attempts to breach legal order and prevent work of enterprises on the territory of the Croatian republic were foiled. Therefore, the council holds that the SFRY Presidency ought to have called on outlaws to surrender arms and not to call for cease-fire, whereby it gave equal weight to both the legal and illegal forces."

In the statement, the council stated as unacceptable the decisions of the SFRY Presidency regarding the withdrawal of all police forces and about raising the combat readiness of "appropriate JNA units."

"The Republic of Croatia," the council concludes, "in line with a previous decision, will set up a police station in the Plitvice National Park, as well as elsewhere where need arises, and with the force necessary for keeping peace and order in that area."

The council rejected the SFRY Presidency decision to raise the combat readiness of "appropriate JNA units," assessing it as yet another attempt of certain SFRY military and political circles to give the JNA the role of arbiter in resolving the state and political crisis in the country," the statement concludes.

Resolution Incorporates Krajina Into Serbia

LD0104165491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1514 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Titova Korenica, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—The Krajina executive council today passed a decision to incorporate the Serbian autonomous region [SAR] of Krajina into the Republic of Serbia. Under the decision, Krajina will become an integral part of the united state territory of the republic of Serbia, and, as of today, the SAR of Krajina would recognize the constitution and the laws of the Republic of Serbia, as well as the SFRY's constitutional-legal system.

Under the decision, the SAR of Krajina statute and other legal regulations will be harmonized with the Serbian constitution within the next 30 days. Under an article of the decision, the following municipalities will be integrated into the united state territory of the Republic of Serbia: Knin, Benkovac, Obrovac, Gracac, Donji Lapac, Korenica, Vojnic, Vrgimost, Glina, Dvor, Kostajnica, Petrinja, and Pakrac.

It adds that "the decision also applies to all Serbian localities that have already become parts of the above municipalities and all others that, in the future, decide to join them in the process of separation. Today's decision, adopted at a meeting in Korenica, comes into effect immediately."

At the meeting in Korenica, presided over by Knin municipality President Milan Babic, in his capacity as president of the Executive Council of the SAR of Krajina, the executive council also adopted, as a separate document, a list of four demands to be sent to the SFRY Presidency, the Yugoslav People's Army command staff, the Federal Secetariat for Internal Affairs, and other competent federal bodies.

All these bodies are urged "urgently to carry out the Yugoslav Presidency's decision for the withdrawal from the territory of the SAR of Krajina of the occupying and terrorist forces of the Internal Affairs Ministry of the Republic of Croatia."

Journalists were told that to protect the citizens and the territorial integrity of the SAR of Krajina, the Executive Council today also endorsed an order by Milan Babic to mobilize the territorial defenses and the units of volunteers in the municipalities which decided to join Krajina.

Knin Reported Quiet After Demonstration

LD0104171891 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1627 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Knin, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—The situation is back to normal in Knin late this afternoon following a protest meeting by workers and citizens outside the JNA [Yugoslav People's Army] Corps Command. Traffic in the town has also been normalized. Trains, however, have

not been running since yesterday, but it has been confirmed that two fast trains, Liga-Expres and Dalmacija-Ekspres, have been allowed to continue to Zagreb along the Lika and Una railway lines.

Schools in the area stayed closed today following a decision by the executive council of Knin municipality passed at an emergency session as a reaction to the events at Plitvice and Titova Korenica. Security has been stepped up around all public buildings and facilities in Knin.

Journalists Beaten in Titova Korenica

LD0104172191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1628 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Titova Korenica, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—An incident occurred today in front of the Hotel Pljesivica in the center of Titova Korenica involving a group of citizens and a team from Croatian Radio - Studio Zagreb. Several blows were inflicted on journalist Mladen Kusec, and sound engineers Miljenko Kopac and Dubravko Palcec were not spared either. Policemen came to the assistance of the team of journalists, and later in the local health center they were given the necessary treatment. A TANJUG journalist was unable to contact his colleagues from Croatian Radio, though it is believed that they will soon be able to set off for Zagreb.

Army Contacts Both Sides in Plitvice Dispute

LD0104174591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1632 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Titova Korenica, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—This day in the Plitvice national park passed without incidents, although the situation continues to be tense. Yugoslav National Army units are placed in four strategic locations between the towns of Titova Korenica and Grabovac, which are on the opposite sides of the Plitvice Lakes complex.

Army headquarters refuses to divulge more substantial information to journalists, apart from stating that the Army has so far been successfully carrying out tasks set up by the SFRY Presidency. The headquarters is in contact with warring parties and reacts swiftly to indications of possible conflicts, to preserve peace, avert conflicts and find peaceful solutions, a TANJUG journalist was told.

Serbs in Borovo Region Form Police Force

AU0104183091 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Brana Pjetlovic report]

[Text] The Serbian National Council for Slavonia, Baranja and Western Srem this afternoon called on the Serbian people to restrain themselves from all actions until 1900. It is also demanding that the services and institutions of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs keep their promise and release Goran Hadzic, president of the Communal Committee of the Serbian Democratic Party, and Borivoje Savic, secretary of this party, who were arrested yesterday on the way back from Obrovac.

The Serbian National Council for Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem stresses that those arrested are innocent and expressed regret that a patrol of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs tried to force its way into Borovo Selo on two occasions. There was some sporadic shooting but luckily no one was killed or wounded.

At the council's meeting it was stated that 25 militiamen from the Vukovar police station left the service and joined the people with their weapons. At the same time the Serbian National Council for Slavonia, Baranja, and Western Srem issued an appeal to all retired policemen, inspectors, and all other employees of the security service of Serbian nationality to form a Serbian police group in this area of Croatia.

A team of reporters from Novi Sad Radio visited people on the barricades erected all over Borovo Selo. On the road to Dalj, Serbs (?are entrenched) in a big canal. The journalists also observed more than 100 armed people. Some individuals were carrying bombs. Molotov cocktails have also been prepared in case the special police try to intervene. The only certain thing at present is uncertainty and another sleepless night.

Kucan Warns Against 'Fanaticism'

LD0104185491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1545 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Portoroz, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—It is our common wish that we implement the decision adopted in December in the plebiscite as quickly as possible, Slovene Presidency President Milan Kucan emphasized on greeting participants at a seminar in Portoroz on the topic of "organization, information technology, and cadres" today.

On this occasion, Kucan also repeated his conviction that this wish should be achieved in a peaceful, democratic, and consensus-like way. At the same time, he warned off the danger that fanaticism and the basic need for the more rapid resolution of the "Yugosclerosis" can lead to mistakes in which "the radical changing of existing things is a return to old, outmoded, and already rejected things." Therefore, Kucan stressed that autonomy and sovereignty must first be accepted by us, and we must establish the institutional frameworks of authority and its effectiveness, while the risk involved in this and the responsibility for this are ours.

Karlovac Police Press Charges Against 'Rebels'

LD0104190991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1748 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—The Karlovac police administration, as part of the Croatian Internal Affairs Ministry, has filed criminal charges with the district public prosecutor in Zagreb against 18 people on the grounds of having carried out a criminal act of armed

rebellion. Under a previously drawn up plan and agreement, they organized, in the locality of the Plitvice Lakes, units, detachments, and squads armed with weapons obtained partly legally and partly illegally, and with those given to them in Titova Korenica, such as rifles, machine guns, and a large amount of ammunition.

According to Radio Croatia this evening, at their own instigation they set up barricades that they guarded with firearms. According to the charges, the group used weapons to resist the MUP, which resulted in injuries and deaths to both MUP units and the rebels.

Criminal charges have been brought against: Milorad Bubanj, Luka Svilar, Vlado Suput, Dusko Zigic, Bosko Zujic, Vujadin Vunjak, Nikola Rapajic, Budimir Bizic, Brane Ivanisevic, Zoran Zoraj, Stevo Miric, Branko Vukadinovic, Nedeljko Kovacic and Petar Grlic, all from Titova Korenica and surrounding localities; Bozidar Ceho and Djulibor Tintor, of Knin; and Borivoj Savic and Goran Hadzic, of Vukovar.

Babic on Krajina's Incorporation Into Serbia

AU0104193491 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1700 GMT 1 Apr 91

["Excerpts" of speech by Milan Babic, president of the Executive Council of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina on 31 March; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Babic] This decision is a logical follow-up to all processes that took, and are taking place, regarding the state organization and relations among the peoples in the Yugoslav federation.

The Yugoslav federation has been experiencing a political crisis for a long time. The crisis has now reached a peak with the Republics of Slovenia and Croatia violating the federal Constitution and suspending the Constitution and federal laws, with the Republic of Croatia unconstitutionally adopting a new constitution and treating the entire administrative territory of the Republic of Croatia as the Croatian national territory, with the Slovenes deciding to and holding a plebiscite on separation from Yugoslavia, with the republics of Slovenia and Croatia adopting a resolution on dissociation from Yugoslavia based on the administrative republican rather than ethnic borders.

It is also a fact that the federal services and the federal Yugoslav leadership is experiencing a profound political crisis. The SFRY Presidency is powerless and inert, and even the work of the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces is blocked. Despite all the decisions and promises made by the SFRY Presidency and the Supreme Command of the Armed Forces that order, peace, and safety of all citizens will be guaranteed, that interethnic conflicts and a civil war will be prevented, the SFRY Presidency and the Supreme Command did not respond in time and thus we made this decision today. This decision was made today because the last Serbian commune in Krajina, the commune of Glina, decided last night to secede from the Republic of Croatia. [passage omitted]

'Several Hundred' in Knin Demand Arms

LD0104193691 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1919 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Excerpt] Knin, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—Around 1900 several hundred people gathered in front of the Yugoslav People's Army Corps building in Knin. This is, in a way, the continuation of this morning's protest of Knin workers and citizens. Some protestors are shouting "We want arms," "Serbia, Serbia," "Slobo, Slobo," "We will march on the barracks," and the like. [passage omitted]

Official Promises To Arm Civilians

LD0104213291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2033 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Knin, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—More than 2,000 Knin citizens this evening protested in front of the Yugoslav National Army corps building demanding arms. Following an hour-long meeting, the protestors dispersed peacefully.

The protest started around 2000 when the deadline for fulfilling demands presented at this morning's meeting expired.

Milan Martic, secretary of the Krajina internal affairs secretariat, was the first to address the protest meeting. He stressed that he understands their anger, but that, as he put it, an incident with the Army would play into hands of the Croatian Ministry for Internal Affairs. He asked the citizens to go home and make lists of all those capable of carrying arms, assuring them that everyone would receive arms.

Knin Municipal Assembly President Lazd Macura also called on the protestors to disperse, because there was no one to give them arms at the moment.

Serbian Democratic Party leader Jovan Raskovic said Serbs have never employed violence to impose their will on others. "We shall not be conquerors, but we shall defend our piece of soil." According to Raskovic, Krajina will be a free country for its citizens. You must defend yourselves from the Croatian uniformed men, but not from the Croatian people, Raskovic told the protestors.

Vrginmost Secedes From Croatia

LD0104224491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2232 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Vrginmost, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—At this evening's emergency session deputies of the Vrginmost municipal assembly reached a decision that the municipality will secede from the Croatian republic. The same session also decided to adopt the Statute of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina.

SDS, MUP Officials Hold Talks

LD0104221191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1906 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—A delegation from the regional committee of the Serbian Democratic Party [SDS] for Slavonija and Baranja is holding talks in Zagreb this evening with representatives of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs [MUP]. This was stated to Croatian Television this evening by Ilija Sasic, member of the SDS regional committee for Slavonija and Baranja. Sasic recently headed an SDS regional committee delegation in talks with Croatian President Franjo Tudjman.

According to Sasic, the talks are designed to establish the circumstances surrounding the arrest of Goran Hadzic and Borivoj Savic, members of the Slavonija and Baranja SDS Regional Committee, during Sunday's events at Plitvice Lakes. "We have received assurances that they are being treated correctly," Sasic said. He added that judging by the course of the talks so far they can be expected to be completed successfully sometime this evening.

"In view of this, we appeal to the Serbian people of Slavonija and Baranja, and from Vukovar area, in particular, to maintain peace and dignity and to refrain from behavior likely to cause conflicts of unforeseeable consequences," Sasic concluded.

On this evening's main news bulletin on Croatian Television, Slavko Degoricija, Croatian deputy internal affairs minister, said that in the course of the investigation Hadzic and Savic had stated that they had been forced to take part in an ambush of MUP units at Plitvice. The investigation has confirmed that when arrested, the two had weapons on them, rifles and guns, which they had fired at the units. This puts them in a very complicated position.

If the investigation confirms that they were forced to take part in the attack on MUP units, they will be freed. Derogicija said, however, that we cannot just take as true what they told us. We shall let investigative judges establish the truth on the basis of reports of witnesses.

Serbian Party Wants Croatian Units Withdrawn

LD0204000191 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2243 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Dvor na Uni, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—Regarding events in Titova Korenica, the Serbian Democratic Party [SDS] regional committee for Banija and Kordun demanded at a session held today in Glina that the SFRY Presidency and the Yugoslav People's Army implement the order on the withdrawal of special units of the Croatian Ministry for Internal Affairs from the territory of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina. Otherwise, the Ministry for Internal Affairs will bear responsibility for all possible consequences.

The Serbian people, it was stressed, regard any further delay in withdrawal of the special forces as the occupation of the Serbian Autonomous Region of Krajina. The committee also demanded release of all imprisoned Serbs and if this is not done, the Serbian nation is prepared to do everything to free its brothers.

It was also demanded that all wounded Serbs be transferred by military helicopters to the Military Medical Academy in Belgrade. The Serbian president and the Serbian People's Assembly were urged to undertake, in line with powers enshrined in the Serbian Constitution, all measures necessary for the protection of the endangered Serbian people in Croatia.

Croatian Units Withdrawn

LD0204082791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0715 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Titova Korenica, 2 Apr (TANJUG)—According to a statement by Predrag Culafic, head of a working group of the Federal Secretariat for Internal Affairs who is staying in Titova Korenica, special units of the Croatian Ministry of Internal Affairs were withdrawn last night at about 0130 from Plitvice. The units headed toward Karlovac.

According to initial reports, 90 police from Gospic, who form the public security station in Plitvice, have arrived to replace them.

Two Explosions Rock Knin

LD0204083791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0728 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Knin, 2 Apr (TANJUG)—Two businesses—the "Cafe 01" owned by Zvonko Curko, and a bakery owned by Gega Duljaj—were the target of two "dynamiters" in Knin last night.

According to information received from Milenko Zelenbaba, chief of the Knin Secretariat for Internal Affairs, people in the village of Kijevo, 25 km from Knin, have erected barricades at the entry and exit to their village. Croats are the only inhabitants of this village.

In Knin itself, at first sight things are normal. The stores are open and people are at work in Knin's collectives. The exceptions are secondary and two primary schools that, in accordance with a decision by the executive council, will not operate today.

Rail transport is still not operational, and nothing more precise can be said on when trains will be running again. The trains in this region stopped on Sunday [31 March] afternoon when, following the events in Plitvice, several anonymous callers told the Knin train station that explosives had been placed on the tracks.

Serbian Assembly Holds Emergency Session

LD0204101391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0930 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Apr (TANJUG)—The current position of the Serbian nation in Croatia, in light of the most recent events in this republic, is the topic being discussed at today's closed emergency session of the Serbian Assembly. The session, which began at 1100 was convened at the request of a group of deputies of the Socialist Party of Serbia [socijalisticka partija srbije—SPS].

At the end of the closed emergency session, a regular session of the assembly will be held.

Defense Secretariat Presents Recommendations

LD0204110791 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1009 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, 2 Apr (TANJUG)—The 31 March 1991 decision of the SFRY Presidency on the situation in the Plitvice Lakes area has not been implemented regarding the section that relates to the obligations of the competent authorities "to withdraw immediately all police, or rather militia forces" that "came from outside" to the area of the Plitvice Lakes and Titova Korenica (point three of the decision). It emerges from the publicized conclusions of the Council for National Defense and Protection of the Constitutional Order of the Republic of Croatia of 1 April 1991 that the competent authorities of the Republic of Croatia do not want to implement this decision, a statement of the SFRY Presidency Information Department stresses.

The failure to implement the SFRY Presidency decision concerning the withdrawal of all police, or rather militia forces, the statement continues, does not ensure the basic precondition for respect of the cease-fire that was ordered in the Plitvice region, and thus also for ensuring peace in the country.

Starting from the assessment to the effect that any further procrastination over the implementation of the SFRY Presidency decision will inevitably lead to the escalation of interethnic conflicts, the Federal Secretariat for National Defense has proposed that the SFRY Presidency urgently adopt the following decisions:

1. That a request be made of the leadership of the Republic of Croatia that it implement the decision to withdraw by 1500 on 2 April 1991 all forces that came to the Plitvice region from outside.

2. That it order the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] to implement the decision if action is not taken in accordance with it within the deadline specified in point one.

3. That it order the JNA to engage in maintaing order and peace in the Plitvice region pending the achievement of a political agreement on the resolution of the situation which has arisen.

SFRY Presidency President Borisav Jovic has convened an urgent session of the SFRY Presidency, the statement by the SFRY Presidency Information Department concludes.

Osijek Police To Remove Village Barricades

LD0204121391 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1027 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Summary] Osijek, 2 Apr (TANJUG)—An emergency session of the presidium and executive council of the municipality of Osijek (eastern Croatia) stated that in eight of the municipalities of Slavonija and Baranja (eastern Croatia) covered by the Osijek police administration, the situation is calm. "In the neighboring municipalities of Vukovar and Vinkovci, however, there are barricades and armed guards in villages where the population is predominantly Serbian."

The Osijek police chief said that verbal attempts would be made to persuade people to remove the barricades, but that if this fails "legally established repressive measures" would be used to remove the barricades and armed guards.

"Information was given at the session that the Chetnik leader, Vojislav Seselj, with a group of his armed followers, stayed in the Vukovar area late last night."

Barricades Erected in Vukovar District

LD0204121491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1023 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Vukovar, 2 Apr (TANJUG)—Barricades were erected last night and this morning on roads—with local people acting as armed guards—in most villages in the municipality of Vukovar, in which predominantly inhabitants of the Serbian nationality live. For fear of intervention by the police of the Republic of Croatia Ministry of Internal Affairs, all vehicles in these villages are being checked, and transit routes are occasionally impassable.

In Borovo, a village where there was a clash between local people and the police the night before last, and also in Bobota, Brsadin, Trpinje, Pacetin, and Negoslavce lights in homes were burning until dawn today. In the nationally mixed village of Berak shots were also fired into the air, and shots were also fired from a barricade at the entrance to the village of Brsadin. It cannot yet officially be established what happened here during the night. This morning, however, in the place where the incident took place in front of a big tree trunk felled across the road there was a Yugo car with a Vukovar registration number riddled with bullets. In the car there were also traces of blood.

All this gives the impression that a fresh exacerbation of the atmosphere in the commune of Vukovar is developing. Today, before an emergency session of the municipal assembly, a small group of people, mainly of Croatian nationality, gathered in front of the assembly building, dissatisfied at the erection of barricades and the claim by the Serbian inhabitants that they feel threatened.

Deputies Seek Political Solution

LD0204122991 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1103 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Vukovar, 2 Apr (TANJUG)—The intra-national tension in the commune of Vukovar, which has been expressed increasingly over the past few days, is not abating today, either. Deputies of all the chambers of this municipality condemned at an emergency session this morning any use of force and violent behavior in resolving the Yugoslav crisis. It was pointed out that in a multinational environment such as Vukovar this could have catastrophic consequences.

The deputies called on citizens, state bodies, political parties, and institutions of the system to contribute to the peaceful resolution of problems in this municipality. At the session of all the chambers of the municipality of Vukovar an appeal was made to the president of the Republic of Croatia, the republican government, the SFRY Presidency, and the Federal Executive Council that they do everything in the framework of their competence so that the very serious and difficult situation in the area of the municipality of Vukovar, it was assessed, might be resolved by political means.

In view of the fact that contacts up to now with the representatives of the government of the Republic of Croatia have not, in the assessment of the deputies, yielded the expected results, a request was made that people from the government visit the municipality of Vukovar tomorrow. The intention is that solutions to the present situation be found in direct contacts and talks.

Jovic Requests 'Urgent' Presidency Session

LD0204122291 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1137 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Belgrade, April 2 (TANJUG)—Yugoslav State Presidency President Dr. Borisav Jovic has called an urgent session of the Presidency for today, the Presidency's Information Service said today.

As announced, the session has been called because the Presidency decision of March 31 has not been implemented. The decision pertains to the withdrawal of all Croatian police and Krajina region police brought to Plitvice National Park from outside this territory.

Members of the Croatian police and members of the police of the Serb autonomous region of Krajina, which was proclaimed unilaterally in part of the Yugoslav Republic of Croatia where there is a majority Serb population, took part in armed clashes in Plitvice on Sunday morning. Two people were killed and 12 wounded in the clashes.

"The basic prerequisite for observing the ceasefire ordered in the area of Plitvice, and, consequently, securing peace in the country" has not been secured as a result of the failure to implement the Yugoslav Presidency decision, says the statement.

"Starting from an assessment that any delay in carrying out the Presidency decision would inevitably result in an escalation of inter-ethnic clashes," the Yugoslav Defence Ministry proposed that the Presidency demand of the Croatian leadership to implement the decision on the withdrawal of its own police and the Krajina police by 3 p.m. today.

The ministry proposed that the Presidency order the Army to implement the decision, unless "it was acted upon" within the time limit.

The ministry also proposed that the Presidency, which is the supreme commander of the Yugoslav armed forces, order the Army to keep peace and order in the area of Plitvice "until a political agreement has been reached on the settlement of the current situation."

Krajina Police Request Prisoner Exchange

LD0204131491 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1154 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Summary] Knin, 2 Apr (TANJUG)—"The Secretariat for Internal Affairs [SUP] of Krajina has proposed to police stations in Split and Sibenik that an exchange of arrested persons be carried out, Krajina SUP Secretary Milan Martic stated this morning to journalists of TANJUG and VECERNJE NOVOSTI. According to him, the Krajina police have arrested six Croatian constables: four were arrested as long ago as Sunday near Plaski (municipality of Otocac), and two last night near Civljane. These two constables are inhabitants of the neighboring Croatian-populated village of Kijevo."

Martic also noted that last night three Serbian youths were arrested by inhabitants of Kijevo, while the inhabitants of Civljane arrested six Croats from Kijevo, who were later released.

He continued: "We are intending to exchange the police from Krajina for members of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Croatia. In Zagreb prison there are in fact two of our police reservists, who were arrested during the intervention in Plitvice, while we do not know whether six of our policemen have been arrested or not, Martic added. For the time being, Martic said, we have only received the answer from the police stations in Split and Sibenik that there is no reason for an exchange, because this is not a matter of a state of war."

Martic also said that citizens are already submitting to the Knin police station lists of those capable of bearing arms. About 10,000 people from Krajina are on these lists, and further lists are still arriving, he said.

At a protest meeting held in Knin last night, Martic said that "The president of Serbia has promised that he would send arms to Krajina."

Shooting in Vukovar Commune; Mesic To Visit

AU0204140491 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1300 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Mirko Stankovic report from Vukovar]

[Text] The situation is becoming more and more serious at the approaches to Serbian villages in the Vukovar commune. Stipe Mesic and Slavko Degoricija are expected to visit this afternoon.

[Stankovic] Very rigorous checks have been introduced at the barricades that have been set up in seven Serbian villages to protect the Serbian population from possible attack from Croatian special forces and constabulary.

This was the case last night at the approach to Borovo Selo when constables coming from the direction of Osijek tried to enter Borovo Selo and opened heavy fire on several cars, after which the constables withdrew.

It was much more tragic at the barricade at the entrance to the village of Brsadin near (?Djerda Forest) not far from Vukovar. A Yugo 45 car, driven by Ivan Nemcic from Vukovar, set off at about 0100 last night in the direction of Vinkovci. Nemcic did not heed a warning to stop and instead of stopping took out a revolver and began to shoot at the guards on the barricade. This was followed by gunfire from the barricades directed at the car and Nemcic's wife, Ljubica, was seriously wounded while unidentified persons pulled Nemcic out of the stationary car and beat him up.

According to Jadan Evcic, the surgeon on duty at Vukovar hospital, Nemcic's wife was wounded in the chest without damage to her heart or main arteries. She is in the intensive care unit and out of danger. An investigation is under way.

As I speak, Vukovar is expecting an urgently announced visit from SFRY Presidendy Vice President and Slavko Degoricija, assistant to the Internal Affairs Minister of Croatia. They are coming at the demand of the presidium of the Executive Council and the Council for National Defense of the communal Assembly of Vukovar, who made this demand at last night's emergency session, that discussed the latest events in the Vukovar commune.

Tudjman: Army Thwarts Provocation Attempts

LD0204140991 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1323 GMT 2 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, April 2 (TANJUG)—Croatian President Franjo Tudjman on Tuesday [2 April] said that responsible men in the Yugoslav People's Army did not permit the realization of a wish of greater Serbian and unitarist forces to jeopardize Croatia's democracy, sovereignty and freedom by provoking an army intervention.

Addressing the First World Assembly of Croatian Youth in Zagreb today, Tudjman said that the rights of all Serbs in Croatia were guaranteed, but that "we shall not allow an inch of Croatian land to be taken away from Croatia".

The majority Serbian population in southern and central parts of Croatia, extending on about one-quarter of the territory of the second-largest Yugoslav republic, had declared a Serbian autonomous region of Krajina and its national council yesterday decided on its joining to the Republic of Serbia.

Kostic Elected Vojvodina Presidency Member

LD2903190291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1512 GMT 29 Mar 91

[Text] Novi Sad, 29 Mar (TANJUG)—At their joint session today, the delegates of all three chambers of the Vojvodina Assembly elected Jugoslav Kostic new member of the SFRY Presidency from Vojvodina by a majority of votes. Kostic is currently occupying the position of president of the Presidency of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina.

In a repeat ballot, out of 161 delegates who cast their vote 127 voted for Jugoslav Kostic.

Second candidate Savo Ivancevic, member of the Presidency of the Autonomous Province of Vojvodina, received 25 votes. There were nine spoiled ballot papers in the second round of voting.

In his speech after the election Kostic said, among other things, that he would vindicate delegates' confidence in him, and would work hard on preserving present-day Yugoslavia as a community of equal nations and nationalities.

Unemployment Figures Seen as 'Alarming'

AU2903222991 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 26 Mar 91 p 9

[TANJUG report: "Graduates Occupy Employment Bureaus"]

[Text] Last year, 1,386,479 persons or 15.8 percent of the working population of Yugoslavia were out of work. The highest rate of unemployment was in Kosovo—37.8 percent; in Macedonia 22.5 percent; Montenegro 22.1 percent; and Bosnia-Hercegovina 20.3 percent. An above average level of unemployment was also recorded in Serbia including its provinces—18.7 percent; unemployment in Vojvodina was 16.2 percent, and in so-called Serbia proper 16.1 percent. The unemployment rate remained well below the Yugoslav average in only two republics, in Slovenia, 4.9 percent, and in Croatia, 8.9 percent.

This data is more than alarming without an in-depth analysis. If one bears in mind that according to the Federal Bureau for Employment another 1.5 million people are a potential technological surplus, that the situation is deteriorating daily due to the mass bankruptcies and liquidations of companies, that unemployment in the public sector is rapidly rising, while employment in the private sector is moving at a snail's pace, and

finally that there is no credible social welfare program, then the situation in the domestic labor market is clear without thinking much about it. For example, Croatia, which is considered to be the most developed republic next to Slovenia, currently lacks 400 million dinars to be paid out in unemployment benefits alone.

The fact that the bulk of last year's 1.38 million strong "army" of unemployed—this number grew to 1.4 million this year—or 427,498 persons were unskilled laborers would not be that depressing if one ignored the fact that there were approximately as many secondary school graduates lining up in the employment bureaus. Last December, 418,988 persons with a secondary school education were out of work in the country. At the end of December, employment bureaus' records showed that there were 49,746 university graduates seeking employment, of which 38,361 held a two year university diploma.

Retail Prices Rise 59 Percent

AU3003174991 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 26 Mar 91 p 11

[Text] The highest increase in inflation in February in comparison with the previous month was recorded in Serbia, with an increase of 11 percent. The increase in inflation in Macedonia was only one percent less, 10 percent. In relation to the "federal increase in inflation" of nine percent, the rise in inflation in all other republics was smaller. The rate of increase in retail prices in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Slovenia, and Croatia was 8 percent in comparison with January. The smallest increase was recorded in Montenegro and Kosovo, six percent. The increase in inflation in Vojvodina was the same as the federal increase.

Retail prices in February were 59 percent higher than in the same month last year. The same rate of increase was also recorded in Montenegro. The biggest increase in retail prices in the last 12 months was in Kosovo (68 percent), Serbia without provinces (63 percent), and Croatia (62 percent). Somewhat smaller increases in retail prices were recorded in Bosnia-Hercegovina, Vojvodina (57 percent), and Macedonia (55 percent). The most stable retail prices were in Slovenia. They rose by 49 percent in one year.

Slovene Socialists Call For Sovereignty

LD0104180291 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1517 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Ljubljana, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—The Socialist Party of Slovenia proposes that "effective sovereignty of the republic of Slovenia be established immediately" because of doubt "that in the event of a possible military takeover of power, the Slovene Assembly would be able to adopt any conclusions at all." This is stressed in a statement by this party today, which claims that such a solution "is also allegedly requested in a letter which Milan Kucan, president of the Presidency of Slovenia, has sent to the assembly."

"It is a fact that the Slovene government is late in realizing effective authority in the territory of the republic of Slovenia," the Socialist Party statement goes on to say, and here it warns "that in this way the citizens of Slovenia are directly threatened, something that is confirmed by only the latest examples of the self-managing theft of the property and capital of Slovenia in Bosnia-Hercegovina and Serbia." The statement also says "that the violent attempts to change the borders in Yugoslavia have led to the bloody clashes in Plitvice, and that it is quite obvious that the purpose in provoking the conflict is to get the Yugoslav People's Army [JNA] directly involved in resolving the crisis in Yugoslavia." The JNA sees its future only in a federal Yugoslavia such as it is, claims the Socialist Party of Slovenia, the former Socialist Alliance of Working People. Also, this party stresses that the appearance of the JNA in Plitvice is designed to try "to create the impression in our country and in the world that the JNA is the only guarantor of peace in Yugoslavia."

The Socialist Party of Slovenia at the same time criticizes the SFRY Presidency for, the statement alleges, equating the internal affairs services of Croatia and an armed group of the Knin-based "autonomous" Serbian Krajina.

Groups Appeal for Peace, Oppose 'Civil War'

LD0104170591 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1455 GMT 1 Apr 91

[Text] Zagreb, 1 Apr (TANJUG)—The Democratic Opposition Forum from Zagreb and the Forum of the Terazije in Belgrade today sent a joint appeal to the Yugoslav public in which they draw attention to the fact that there can no longer be silence about a civil war.

A civil war is against the interests of each citizen and member of whatever ethnic group, and it is only an ambition of national leaders to hold on to power, it says in the appeal which representatives of the two fora announced at a news conference today in Zagreb.

A member of the forum and one of the representatives of the Belgrade students said here that "the youth of Serbia and Croatia must meet and resolutely and together say no to war" and the voices must be raised of all those who are for a peaceful and civlized European method of negotiation.

Both fora have founded a common mission of goodwill that will visit all parties to the conflict and request that the dangerous games with civil war be halted.